in comparison with adjacent ones. It is ascertaining what would happen to this rich patch of dragonflies and other insects should this area be allowed to become bush, or alternatively, to be landscaped in the traditional sense with lawn and ornamentals. The intention is to leave this area undeveloped and ecologically intact, and to make this accessible to the public where they are able to see a large variety of beautiful insects within a few minutes of the city centre. Any visitor can see as many dragonflies as he is likely to see on a major day trip anywhere.

INDIGENOUS PLANTS FOR CAPE COASTAL GARDENS

by A. Barrie Low, Cape Flats Nature Reserve, University of the Western Cape

2. The building blocks

In a previous article (Low 1989), I demonstrated some important elements of soil recognition and how to discern between those with acid or calcareous properties. Here, I shall show you what indigenous plants can be used to make an attractive and delightful garden. Following the spirit of the previous article, I have recommended species which do well on calcareous soils, but these will also flourish on other substrates such as acid sand and loams.

There is a great array of suitable species, so choice really is not a problem. However, there are two important issues to consider: one is the overall plant architecture or form you desire, and two is the availability of plants.

I shall discuss suitable plants by groups and according to form. Structure of the plants you intend to use is important in designing your garden as it dictates its final physical appearance, and determines other factors such as leaf texture.

Note that most species do not flower throughout the year, and so it makes sense to have a garden which is visually appealing for all times of the year. This is when factors such as plant form and leaf colour can play a vital role.

In the groups discussed below, I mention only a few suitable species. Space prevents me from elaborating further so
I have included, as an insert, in this issue of *Veld & Flora*, a list describing 68 species and their chief characteristics. You can take this with you when purchasing plants.

1. Trees

This is the most difficult form to grow at the coast. No matter the location in the winter rainfall region, one invariably is exposed to the vagaries of southerly (summer) or northerly (winter) winds. So as a rule I only recommend trees if they can be protected from the wind. Remember, it is not just the effect of wind per se. It is what the wind carries in the form of sand and salt spray which often is so crucial to tree and other plant survival. In journeys around the coast, one rarely observes trees particularly close to the sea. So don't try and improve on Mother Nature. Rather select a tall-growing, robust shrub which, if not producing the desired effect of a tree, nevertheless will create a striking feature in your garden. Don't be despondent, however, for here are some trees which can do exceptionally well under not-too-severe conditions.

Trees tolerant of calcareous soils include *Hemiphylum caffrum* (wild plum, wildepeurin), *Cassinia* spp. (cabbage tree, kiepersol), *Acacia karroo* (sweet thorn, sootdoring), *Sycgium* spp. (water-benjie) and *Celtis africana* (white sinkwood, witstinkhout).

2. Taller shrubs

The taabos group (*Rubus* spp.) is amongst the most versatile of the taller shrubs and here I must single out *Rhus lucida*, the blinkaaisloob. This species will grow in virtually any soil, it is extremely robust, and is a striking shrub in any coastal garden. It doubles as an effective windbreak and therefore can be used as a perimeter plant. *Tarchonanthus chamissoi* (camphor bush, koxpeterbos) is a hardy individual which in addition is pleasantly aromatic. Given a chance it will become a tree. Note that many trees require pruning before spring, otherwise they remain shrubby.

Another shrub-cum-tree is *Cassine persica* (kasteroafraaie) which produces an abundance of fruit. A variety of fruit-producing plants should always grace one's garden. These will attract many frugivorous (fruit-eating) birds including bulbuls and mousebirds, and in so doing add a new dimension. The wild olive or swartloenhout, *Olea europaea* ssp. africana, whilst not strictly speaking a coastal plant, nevertheless thrives in this environment and can grow to a tall shrub or tree. It is also a haven for fruit-eating birds.

To complete your collection of taller shrubs, the milkwood (*mimelihout*), *Sideroxylon linum*, is a must. Although slow-growing, it is a delightful plant for any garden. You might even have had the rare fortune to purchase a coastal plot complete with this species. Judicious design of your house and future garden could see to any existing milkwoods or other naturally occurring species being retained for your pleasure.

Finally, with judicious pruning, several of the taller shrubs will tend towards trees in more protected spots.

3. Small to medium sized shrubs

This group has an abundance of suitable species although here I can only deal with a few. *Carrissa* spp. (num-num's or noen-noem's) are excellent subjects. They have some very desirable characteristics including a dark green foliage, attractive white flowers and produce masses of fruit. Their spines can be used to advantage at the edge of your property to prevent unwanted access. The bietous or brother berry (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) is another of those shrubs one often encounters in the veld and is a superb colonizer of disturbed soils. Despite its attractive yellow flowers and sweet fruit, be careful for it can become weedy. Other hardy shrubs which will flourish in the coastal garden include *Phylica ericoides*, *Passerina ericoides* (Christmas berry) and *Zygophyllum flexuosum* (maerboes). Pelargoniums are always a good choice for indigenous gardens, so plant *P. betulinum*. This species develops an excellent cover and is very fortiérous, producing a remarkable display of pink.

Smaller shrubs meeting with equal success include *Felicia filifolia* (draai-bosjie), *Oxidolobium fruticosum* (skaebosbiet), *Chorisia lucifera* (Christmas
Now... wood matured Blanc Fumé

Fleur du Cap Blanc Fumé 1987 has just been released. This wine, made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes, has been matured for four months in small casks of new French oak.

Previous vintages of the Sauvignon Blanc have won numerous international awards. Among the most noteworthy were the two Gold Medals with Palm Leaves – the top award – captured at the 1985 and 1986 Monde Selection competitions in Brussels.

Fleur du Cap Blanc Fumé 1987 is made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes grown in selected vineyards in the Coastal Region. Dry and elegant, it has excellent potential for further bottle maturation.

Fleur du Cap Blanc Fumé 1987 is available at discerning wine merchants and finer restaurants.

Fleur du Cap wines are also available internationally.

FLEUR DU CAP

FAIR OF THE CAPE NOBLE WINES

berryl, sambalblossin, Limonium purpureum (sea lavender, strandross) and Struthiola striata (kastierieje). The September, Polygala myrtifolia, a most sought-after garden shrub in Cape Town, produces a brilliant display of purple or pink flowers and will attract nectar feeding birds such as the Lesser double-collared Sunbird.

Three distinct groups require special mention here and should be considered as “obligatory” inclusions in the coastal garden. The first of these is the family Rutaceae or “borage”. In the list I have included a number of genera such as Agathone, Colosma and Disoma. Many of their species have a pleasing, rounded shape and have mass displays in a variety of flower colours. Also they are aromatic, adding their special fragrance to any area. No garden would be complete without the inclusion of the other two groups — themselves the royalty of the fairy box — the proteas and the ericas. Unfortunately calcareous soils are anaemia to most plants in these two groups. However a number are adapted to this substrate and Leucadendron coniferum (duinegebelbos), Leucospermum cordifolium (pincushion, speklokkus), L. cornifera (pincushion, huisbos), Protea oblongifolia, P. amarna (stinkblaarsuikerbos), Erica coccinea and E. sessiliflora can be planted with confidence, perhaps providing the material for a fairy box corner.

4. Groundcovers

No garden can be complete without the inclusion of several well-located groundcovers. Not only does this group provide a range of most suitable and visually appealing forms, but groundcovers are absolutely essential when it comes to covering sandy areas which are subject to strong local winds. One of the most versatile species is the grey-green leaved herb, Arctotis asperula. It is extremely fast-growing, has an appealing architecture and in addition can be planted in a variety of white, yellow and golden yellow flower colours. Add the strandgousbloum (Gazania rigens), the aglaremeebos (Otholobium duvendoo) and the pretty succulent, Sphalammatus camculus, to this species and you have sufficient variety for some imposing groundcovers in your garden.

In the more out-of-the-way places, less attractive, yet equally effective species, such as Carpobrotus spp. (sour fig, suurvy) and Tetragonia spp. (kinkelbossie) can be used to great effect.

KIRSTENBOSCH PLANT SALE
24 March 1990

Several of the plants discussed in this article shall be at the annual Kirstenbosch Plant Sale together with other typical coastal species. Venue: Stone Cottages opp. Kirstenbosch Gardens. Time: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Donate now! Support the Botanical Society and the National Botanical Gardens.

5. Reeds

This is a totally underrated group but adds dimension to the garden through a very different architecture. Thatching reeds in the form of Chondropetalum tectorum and Thamnochortus spinigerus I believe should grace every garden. They grow well, enjoy calcareous soils and are very hardy.

6. Geophytes

These are essentially plants possessing bulbs, tubers or corms, which only appear above the ground for a small part of the year. They can be used to introduce a surprise element to your garden, and good planning can ensure that patches are alive with colour at different times. One can even combine a number of geophytes with different flowering times in the same place so that something is flowering at most times of the year in that particular spot. Desirable species include Brunsvigia orientalis, the candelabra flower or koningskandelaar, Zantedeschia aethiopica, the arum lily, and Chamaesyce aethiopica, the swaankoppy gee.

Other groups not mentioned in the inserted list include annuals — these can be scattered in your garden and will self-sow, giving you years of pleasure. Annuals can be collected locally when they seed — usually in late spring to mid-summer in the winter rainfall region. Suitable species include Demphobia pluvisifis, the rain daisy, Senecio elegans, the wild cineraria and S. littoreus, the hongerblom. Creepers can also give striking effect and be employed successfully once your shrubbery has established itself. Here Cynanchum spp. (bobbie-jantou) and Microloma sagittatum (blokhoring) will provide an added touch.

Finally, most home gardens rely quite heavily on a good lawn. I can recommend one species — Stenotaphrum secund...
Systematic monograph on Watsonia

THE GENUS WATSONIA, A SYSTEMATIC MONOGRAPH, volume 19 of the annals of Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens, by Peter Goldblatt. 290 mm × 210 mm, hard cover, dust jacket, i x and 148 pp. 27 colour plates, 4 black and white figures, bibliographic, distribution maps, index. R50 plus R6.50 GST (within South Africa) plus R2.50 postage/packing.

The long needed revision to the heretofore somewhat confused genus Watsonia is out at last, as Peter Goldblatt continues his work in his way through the Iridaceae. This is a scientific work which should nonetheless appeal to interested laymen and horticulturists as well as trained botanists.

Margo Branch’s line drawings are an excellent supplement to the 23 colour plates of 25 of the 52 species described. As there was neither time nor money to provide colour plates for all species the economical measure of cramming them rather than having the description opposite each plate is acceptable.

It has been interesting comparing the original water colour drawings with the colour plates. The paper on which a number of the older drawings were painted has yellowed with age, and has been etched out in preparing the plates. This has not been possible with the painted areas which seem to have come out remarkably well. As always with even the freshest water colour drawings, something is lost in reproduction, Watsonia abana on the front of the bright and attractive dust jacket being much closer to the original than plate 6 inside as is W. steeneho in the back of the dust jacket than plate 26.

Full use is made of the front and back flaps of the dust jacket which has a pleasant photograph of Peter Goldblatt as well as a synopsis of the book and notes on the author and seven artists (Cythia Lenz (cover plates), Mary Page (two), Lester Smith (13), Joyce Lewis (one), Fay Anderson (seven) and John Manning (two). Margo Branch did the pen and ink drawings.

I found two shortcomings, both of which should have been picked up by the series editors: only 11 of the 12 new species have their Latin descriptions, which in taxonomic circles will no doubt complicate the problem of W. confusa, whilst the frontispiece, no less,

In the next and final article in this series, I shall demonstrate the use of plant form and structure in planning and landscaping one's garden. Here I have presented the reader with just some of the building blocks which can be employed for this purpose.

Acknowledgement
Rod Saunders is thanked for his comments on the article.

Book review

Attention! Aandag! Achtung!

Members PLEASE NOTE that only seed order forms and lists of additions and deletions to the 1989 Seed List will be posted to those who were sent the 1989 Seed List. A complete Seed List with order form will be posted to all members who joined after March 1989. DO YOU STILL HAVE YOUR COPY OF THE 1989 SEED LIST? If not, application for a duplicate list must be made, by writing, immediately, to The Botanical Society, Kirstenbosch, Claremont 7735; or by phoning (21) 7872090.

We hope to start mailing lists in the first two weeks of January. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT SEED MAY ONLY BE ORDERED UNTIL 30 APRIL OF EACH YEAR.

Diana Peters