

## **CAPTIVATED BY BLOUBERG'S TREES**

No better place to learn about trees! The geological diversity of Blouberg ensures it is a botanical hot spot and it is blessed with a diversity of beautiful trees.

Blouberg was the venue for the practical weekend for a group of nature enthusiasts doing a tree course with Bushveld Experience and Skills Training (BEST). The excellent rains this past season could be seen in the vegetation. Everything was looking in mint condition. An ideal location for a fun practical weekend.

We camped at Molope and travelled much of the reserve, van Wyk and van Wyk tree identification key in hand, to focus on Blouberg's trees. The fig tree forest, the northern plains, the Brak River, the Tamboti forests, the mountain itself – all these areas produced an amazing spectrum of beautiful trees. It was interesting how the botanical diversity became apparent once the focus was there. We identified 85 tree species, which we considered good for a weekend, considering how much time was spent deciding between hairy leaves, bacterial nodes, stipules, toothed leaf margins and the like! Many of the trees were heavily in fruit.

Molope was an ideal base, itself situated under beautiful Mashatu and Weeping Boerbeans, with owls and a leopard calling at night.

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