




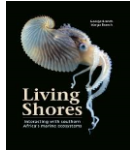









BELOW GROUND

'In order to under-stand the language of animals and plants, one must first of all learn its A B C, but of far more importance are the things you must unlearn. We will therefore begin at the very beginning'

Eugène Marais ~The Soul of the White Ant

8-8:30	Tea and coffee		
8:30 -8:45	Opening Mark Heistein		
8:55-9:40	Peter Slingsby		
9:45-10:30	George and Margo Branch		
10:45-10:50	Tea Break		
10:50-11:40	Arrie Combrink		
11:40-12:00	Guide of the Year Award		
12:00-13:00	Lunch		
13:00	End of the meeting		
13:00 – 13:45	Join for a tour of Astronomical Observatory before you go		

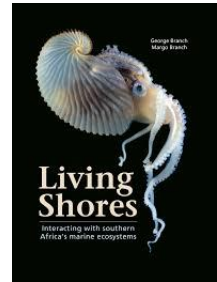
George and Margo Branch

George M. Branch began his career with a focus on the ecology of limpets, which are more diverse and do more extraordinary things than anywhere else in the world. That passion developed into a broader exploration of rocky-shore ecology, competition, predation and other forms of interactions, and he shifted from an observational approach to experimental field work.

George Branch is renowned for his marine research at UCT, where he taught and supervised over 70 postgraduate students. He is the recipient of many national and international awards.

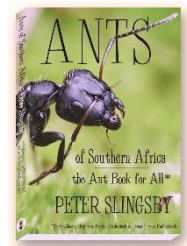
Margo Branch is an award-winning marine scientist, author and illustrator. She helped develop the education and volunteer programmes at Two Oceans Aquarium and the Coastcare marine poster series.

Margo and George have spent a lifetime exploring coastal shores and have published widely on topics from mushrooms, trees and fynbos to marine life, and share a passion for communicating the wonders of the marine world.



Peter Slingsby

He is a cartographer and has been most of his life, who publishes his own maps of hiking and touring areas, mainly in the Western Cape but including areas such as the Wild Coast. He also has a strong interest in place names and their origins. He has been an environmental educator, the author of seven novels for teenagers/ young people, four of which have won awards, the author of books on walks, flowers, and ants. He is happily married and has three offspring and 3.5 grandchildren as well as a cardiac pacemaker, which last fact is not entirely relevant. He enjoys red wine and travelling, especially in dry places like the Tankwa. His interest in ants arose in his youth when he met the great Sydney Skaife, of which more in his talk. He was indifferently educated at various institutions of both higher and lower education, the most important of which taught him to read and write. Oh, and an interest in history, landscapes, his country and card games.



Arrie Combrink

In 2007 Arrie Combrink took a major step in his life and moved to Stillbaai with his wife and two children and started his guiding career. He did Level 1 at nature College and had the privilege of working for a few weeks at Kagga Kamma. During a few years he did numerous day-and-multi-day trips with primary and high School pupils ranging from survival camps to field and marine guiding. He assists Cape nature in some of their community committmens as well and even catches a few snakes for them to be released. He is now station commander at national Sea Rescue Institute, who are committed to the community and do a lot of land and sea medical emergency calls, though their primary function and mandate is sea rescue and assistance. He is also involved in presenting Water Wise programmes at a primary school in Melkhoutfontein and 'Ouma Lena se huis,' a centre for the less privileged.



Make your way into Cape Town...

Get onto Liesbeek Pkwy/ N57.
Make a turn onto Observatory
road, follow to the Astronomical
Observatory

Address

1 Observatory Rd, Observatory,
Cape Town, 7925, South Africa

See you there!

