



NATIONAL ARBOR WEEK 2009

WHEN does this take place?

It runs from the 1st to 7th September every year.

WHAT is it about?

It celebrates the value of trees within South African society. Trees are sources of food, shelter, medicine, building materials and warmth. They protect the soil and please the eye. Myriad creatures depend on them for survival and habitat.

WHICH tree?

2009 Tree of the Year is the *Monkey thorn* or *Apiesdoring* tree. This is the largest of the *Acacia* species and is found along river banks in the savannah regions of the North West and Limpopo provinces.

The coarse grained wood was originally used to make ox wagons and is apparently good for making furniture. Monkeys take refuge in this tree and eat the seedpods. Other animals seek shade under the spreading branches and eat fallen pods. Bees are attracted to the honey-scented bottle brush type flowers and birds shelter among the foliage.

Unfortunately, few of us are privileged to see this amazing spectacle. However, we can help to create a greener environment by planting trees for the future and encouraging birds and insects.

HOW can I make a difference?

You can participate in a "greening" initiative or encourage your school, community or organization to plant an indigenous tree or bush. This will improve your local environment and contribute to a kinder tomorrow.

If you are unable to plant something, you can possibly make this simple birdfeeder and hang it somewhere to attract seed eating birds.

Pine cone bird feeder



Pine cones



Peanut butter



Bird seed



String

To make the pine cone feeder:

- 1 Scoop peanut butter with a spoon onto the pine cones. Make sure to press it into all the little spaces.
- 2 Roll the cone in birdseed.
- 3 Tie a string to the top end of the pine cone.
- 4 You can hang your feeders outside your window or in a tree.



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