



The Veil Nebula in the constellation Cygnus (The Swan). Photo: sdbhas.org

## Learn more about cities of stars

On Friday 11 May, Case Rijdsijk will deliver the fourth lecture in the series *Astronomy for the curious person* entitled *Cities of stars*.

He will answer the question, "What is the Milky Way and the other large groupings of stars?" and talk about our Milky Way as a large galaxy that is home to our sun and the solar system. But there are many other stars, nebulae, clouds and other

things in our galaxy. Do these also occur in other galaxies, and are there clusters of galaxies? He will look at galactic structure, galactic cannibalism and conclude with dark matter and how we know it is there.

The lecture starts at 10:30 at Emmaüs in Memorium Street. All visitors are welcome. For more information, phone Sue on 044 877 1180.

# Auerbach to address international events

**Myron Rabinowitz**

Prof Raymond Auerbach, an internationally renowned authority in the field of organic farming, will be heading off to Europe in June to address a number of international symposiums.

Auerbach, an associate professor of Soil Science and Plant Production at Nelson Mandela University (NMU) George Campus, will attend a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Organic Plus Project in Padua in northern Italy.

From there he will travel south to Messina, where he will chair a session on food security and agriculture at the 24th International Sustainable Development Research

Society Conference. Here he will deliver a summary of his research work on organic farming systems, which pertains to the conference theme "Actions for a sustainable world: from theory to practice".

After Italy, he will spend a week with the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International (Cabi) in the United

Kingdom to finalise his book, *Organic Food Systems: meeting the needs of Southern Africa*.

The 24 chapters cover the research of his agroecology

group at the NMU George Campus over the past ten years, including the long-term organic comparative farming systems research done by his students in Uganda, Zambia, Tanzania and South Africa, and ideas about farmer training, the value chain, urban food production and organic food systems around the world. Auerbach is due to retire at the

end of September, but he will continue to be involved with organic farming systems research, a field he has worked in for 45 years.



Prof Raymond Auerbach Photo: Myron Rabinowitz

## Raymond Auerbach, George's own doyen of organic farming

**Myron Rabinowitz**

Prof Raymond Auerbach completed his Doctorate in Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (Integrated Catchment Management, Rainwater Harvesting, Sustainable Farming and Experiential Learning) at Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands. He has an MSc from the University of

Natal (Sustainable Farming Systems) and an Apprenticeship in Organic (Biodynamic) Farming in Australia, specialising in soil fertility and dairy science.

Auerbach was the Africa representative on the board of the International Association for Farming Systems Research and Extension, and is associate professor of Soil Science and Plant Production at the NMU George Campus, where he manages

a long-term comparative farming systems agroecology research programme, which includes work on campus and by post-graduates in Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania.

He has done extensive research with the SA Water Research Commission and the Energy for Development Research Centre at the University of Cape Town. He is an African Earth Observatory Network Research Fellow, and Extraordinary Associate

Professor at Stellenbosch University's Sustainability Institute. Auerbach was declared a Champion of Ecological Organic Agriculture in Africa by the African Union Commission, and received the Engagement Excellence Award for 2016 from his university, NMU.

He farmed organically for forty years in KwaZulu-Natal with his wife Christina, and they still own a small coffee farm there.