



LEARNING THROUGH NATURE

10 Saddlers Park, 32A Umgeni Avenue, Howick 3290
Tel: 033 330 5980 • Mobile: 079 184 5011 • E-mail: enviro.education@telkomsa.net

NEWSLETTER – JULY 2013

Dear Friends of **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE**,

This newsletter is slightly overdue but we are pleased to inform you that we have been extremely busy.

SUSTAINED / WESSA

Assessments of Portfolios of Evidence (PoE's) keep rolling in due to the many training courses that SustainEd and other WESSA regions are running. (See the details on the right)

In February WESSA held a meeting with officials from **LG SETA** where the Environmental Practices Level 2 and 5 courses were evaluated. After running these courses for a year it was time to appraise all aspects from the learning materials through to assessment.

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE has completed re-writing the **Site Guides (Level 2)** course.. The original learning material was written in 2007. The Umgeni Valley, Education Department has taken on the facilitation of this three module course. It consists of contact sessions, practical work and workplace learning. If anyone is interested in attending this course please contact Shari Cade education@wessa.co.za



The **Environmental Practices – Level 2 Skills Programme** with courses being run at Municipalities in KZN – uMshwathi (Wartburg), Ulundi, Okhahlamba (Bergville) and uMkhanyakude (Mkuze) and Nongoma. This course was also run for the George Municipality by WESSA Southern Cape with funding from the City of Cape Town's Youth Environmental School (YES) programme.

The Environmental Education Training and Development Practices (EETDP) This Level 5 qualification is presently being run at Umgeni Valley, Howick and being attended by participants from all over South Africa.

Assessment of PoE's for the 2011/2012 **EETDP** course run by WESSA Western Cape.

Assessment of the PoE's for the **DEL P (Developing an Environmental Learning Programme)** course. This is Module 3 of the EETDP course which is run as a stand-alone course.

Assessment of PoE's for the ever popular **Environmental Educators Course** run by SustainEd/WESSA at Umgeni Valley, and WESSA Western Cape in Cape Town and Hermanus. Further Enviro. Eds. courses have recently been run at Umgeni Valley for the Groen Sebenza group and various participants at the Treasure Beach (Durban) and Twinstreams (Mtunzini) EE Centres.

TSHIKOVHA ENVIRONMENTAL

The assessment of PoE's for the Environmental Practices Modules 2 and 6 & 7. These courses were run in Bathurst, Eastern Cape.

Jeanette Stewart
Environmental Education Specialist



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At the beginning of July **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** assisted in running an Environmental Educators course at the Twinstreams EE Centre, Mtunzini. This course was attended by 27 learners and funded by the DAEA. Activities included solitaire in the grassland, getting up close and personal with a mangrove, learning about sustainable technologies, early morning walk through the forest and discussing the "Circle of Life" on the beach.



En Stewart
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LIMA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

After two years **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** is pleased to announce that Lima has been awarded provisional accreditation as a training provider. The process continues but we are confident that full accreditation will soon be granted. The skills programmes consist of Structure and Work of Committees (one module), Basic Business Management (two modules) and Basic Financial Record Keeping (three modules) These modules range between Levels 1 and 4.

UNISA

After attending the annual tutor workshop in Gauteng in February **tutoring** soon began with face-to-face tutoring of two modules - Fundamentals of Conservation and Animal Studies students at the Pietermaritzburg campus. E-tutoring of Animal Studies proceeded through the first semester servicing students around the country.



Some of the Pietermaritzburg students with their tutor

Marking of the Fundamentals of Conservation assignments and exam scripts continues. This year on-screen marking of assignments was introduced. Training for this was done via written instruction and video clips. The advantage of on-screen marking is the students obtain results immediately rather than relying on an erratic postal system.

A UNISA student requested **mentorship** from **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** during her period of work-integrated learning. This is proving to be a fruitful partnership.

DUCT (Dusi Umgeni Conservation Trust) WATER WORKSHOP

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE was invited to spend an evening showing the learners the wonders of the night sky. Here are some comments. *My 'aha' moment is when we got to see the stars at night. Olwethu Ngcobo. It was amazing to learn more about the stars especially the red heart at the centre of the scorpion. Mbali Sithole.*



Thanks to Kim Steinberg for the group photograph taken at Twinstreams.

Thanks to Alex Stewart for the use of his photographs for the Site Guides course.

Thanks to Jeanette Eglington for professional bookkeeping services.

We are committed to developing in learners of every age a sense of wonder, joy, fun, inspiration and creativity. We encourage learning through practical activities in natural and cultural settings.

Best wishes, Jeanette

Jeanette Stewart
Environmental Education Specialist