



LEARNING THROUGH NATURE

10 Saddlers Park, 32A Umgeni Avenue, Howick 3290
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NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2011

Hello Everyone,

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE turned 2 on the 1st of April!

Special thanks to Stella, Alex, Duncan, Alison, Sally, Anna, Pam, Shaun, Debbie, Ruth, Carol, Harry, Steve, Shereen, Louine, Jeanette E and many more people for all their support in so many ways.

It is now time for long-overdue update just as winter is settling in.

The end of 2010 was filled with getting **UNISA** Conservation students ready for their exams. This also included conducting video-conferencing tutorials with the students in Durban. This was a new experience and one which worked well when the technology did not break down. This year the tutorial classes for Plant Studies, Animal Studies and Conservation Development have even more nature conservation students registered.



Some of the UNISA Nature Conservation students in the class of 2011

Months of research and writing, with documents going back and forth, the new module, **Fundamentals of Conservation** has been completed for UNISA's 2012 curriculum. This was a challenging process but also most enjoyable as I enjoy writing.

Another new experience was assessing some **ECO-SCHOOLS** portfolios. It was wonderful to read about and see the pictures of enthusiastic children and teachers getting involved in so many projects in greening their schools. Some schools had been involved for a number of years and others were just starting out.

I have continued working with **SUSTAINED (WESSA)** on the assessment of portfolios as well as assisting with the review off the EETDP (Environmental Education, Training and Development Practices) course.

NEW SERVICES

We now have the capacity to offer you value-added services in the form of:

- administration support,
- virtual assistance support,
- typing of materials,
- research for writers,
- conducting training in conservation and environmental education,
- research and development of training materials,
- providing workshops in greening your business

Please call for a quote.

Jeanette Stewart
Environmental Education Specialist



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2010 ended off at the **Dovehouse Organic Farm** with –

Summer Holiday Fun in the Outdoors



The children enjoyed searching for water organisms, going on a nature trail, collecting small items for their artist's palettes and many more fun activities.

This winter on **5, 6, and 7 July** we are gearing up for

Fun on the Farm



So look out for details on the website www.learningthroughnature.co.za and your in-box.

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.

I continue writing the monthly article for the **MEANDER CHRONICLE** and this year the themes are encouraging teachers and parents to take their children outdoors and giving them tips on what they can do. Encouraging them to go as far as the playground where a wealth of resources are waiting to be used.

A favourite destination for the winter holiday is the beach which inspired the latest article is on **SUN, SAND and the SEA**. If you have missed any of the articles go to the website where these are posted under the media releases.



LIMA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

has sought my assistance in the re-accréditation and adjustment of learning programmes they wish to present through Services SETA. In due course Lima will also be offering short skills development course through Agri SETA.

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Training of new tour guides in association with **DRUM BEAT ACADEMY** is a pleasure as I meet so many interesting people. The next group of guides at the **WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL** have progressed to their Level 4 training, writing of portfolios, practical role plays and exams.



NQF Level 4 candidates of the Wilderness Leadership School writing their exams

Appreciation of the Night Sky

With the clear skies of winter fast approaching Learning through Nature is planning a number of activities where people can become more familiar with the beauty above their heads. The evenings will start off with the viewing of the Total **Lunar Eclipse on the 15th June**. Thereafter further exploring of the night sky will continue on the **25th June, 2nd, 9th and 23rd July**. All details of these events can be accessed on the website.
www.learningthroughnature.co.za

Fun and learning for the whole family

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE has continued assisting Pam Curtis with Volumes 2 and 3 of the **NATURE WAYS** DVD series which are a visual learning experience for the younger generation covering aspects of life and living of our natural heritage found in South Africa. These DVD's can be enjoyed by the whole family. These DVD's are all aligned to the Natural Sciences curriculum.

The 'Nature Ways' DVD's are available from CURTIS P.A. PRODUCTIONS. Contact curtispa@polka.co.za for further information.



Cheers until next time,

Jeanette

"Learning through nature" – understanding the world around us and how we can learn to use resources wisely and develop a caring and positive attitude to our environment.

Jeanette Stewart
Environmental Education Specialist