



# LEARNING THROUGH NATURE

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## NEWSLETTER - June 2012

Hello again,

**LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** celebrated its third birthday in April. Grateful thanks to so many people and institutions for your continued encouragement and support and making use of the services we offer.

Since our last newsletter **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** continued with various projects from 2011 and started some new ones. There have been many opportunities for personal learning and growth as you will find out as you read through this newsletter.

The work with **UNISA** has increased to include:

1. **E-tutoring** After attending a tutor workshop in Johannesburg in February to meet fellow tutors, lecturers and inspirational guest speakers as well as visiting the relevant department at UNISA the work of e-tutoring began. For this we dealt with one module, Animal Studies, for first years and were in touch with students around the country by e-mailing weekly tutorial letters, highlighting certain sections within the chapters, suggested additional reading, tips on e.g. how to draw and label diagrams, etc. Conversations would develop through e-mail and on the UNISA website and it was good to establish a rapport with the students getting the feeling that what you were doing was helping and making a difference for them.

2. **Face-to-face tutoring** with first year Nature Conservation and Horticultural students located in and around Pietermaritzburg. The year-long courses have now become semester courses although there still seems to be the same amount of work that needs to be covered in Animal Studies, Plant Studies and Fundamentals of Conservation (previously known as Conservation Development) Readers of this newsletter will remember that we were rewriting this module along with Maartin Strauss from UNISA. This is the first semester that we are proudly using the new learning material.



*Some of the first semester Nature Conservation students who attended tutorials in Pietermaritzburg*

3. **Writing of a Basic Environmental Education** (CIN2601) module for second year students which is about to be published and used in 2013.

4. **Marking** of assignments and exam scripts for Fundamentals of Conservation is on-going.

**Jeanette Stewart**  
Environmental Education Specialist



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## LIMA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The work of accrediting LIMA as a learning provider with Services SETA is on-going. There have been many frustrations and delays in the course of trying to gain the next step in the compliance process but we are ever hopeful that there will be an end in sight.

Work with **WESSA – SustainEd** in the form of **assessment** of Portfolios of Evidence is on-going. This included the assessment of the Eco-Schools, KZN Wildlife and Stepping Up Environmental Educators course groups as well as practical assessment of Site Guides in Durban. Coming up is the assessment of the first module of the Environmental Education, Training and Development Practices (EETDP) and the Environmental Practices courses for the 2012 intake of candidates and second assessment of the EETDP course which was run in Cape Town.

A new and exciting challenge offered was to **co-facilitate two assessor courses** with Debbie Perry in Johannesburg (March) and Durban (May). The candidates are keen to learn and asked many questions. The courses were sponsored by the Local Government SETA (LG SETA) in association with WESSA.



The **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** website has been updated with a number of new inserts. Go to [www.learningthroughnature.co.za](http://www.learningthroughnature.co.za) to look at the Business Profile which outlines the qualifications for which LEARNING THROUGH NATURE is registered to assess. The associated SETA's are Education, Training and Development Practices (ETDP SETA), Culture, Arts, Hospitality and Sport SETA (CATHSSETA) and Local Government (LG SETA) On the Services page one can see an overview of the services provided by LEARNING THROUGH NATURE as well as activities offered to Home Schools. If you have missed the previous newsletters you can catch up on the developments and activities over the past 3 years.

**Jeanette Stewart**  
**Environmental Education Specialist**





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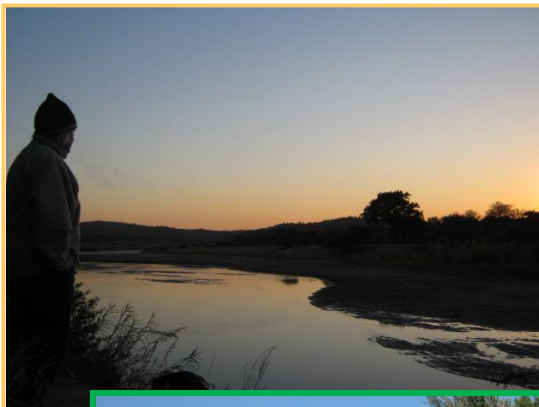
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Last but by no means least was a personal learning experience of a 5 day wilderness trail in June with the **WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL** in the iMfolozi Game Reserve. This was certainly a life-changing and challenging experience and yet also extremely rewarding. My thanks go to our guides Siphwe Mtetwa and Mandla Mkhwanazi for their wisdom, constant care, alertness, knowledge, cooking skills and special brand of humour and to my fellow trailists who shared in the adventure, offering a helping hand when most needed, for the fire-side discussions, laughter and hoping we would not forget the instructions given at the start of the trail when encountering a crisis. One of the many highlights was having our first meal en route with Jabulani the son of the co-founder of the wilderness trails Magqubu Ntombela. The other co-founder being Dr. Ian Player.



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to Jeanette Eglington for keeping track of the finances. Many thanks too to Arin Martheze for the group photograph.

## LEARNING THROUGH NATURE

is committed to providing a professional and quality service in developing skills in people working in the natural environment and early childhood development. Encouraging others to be inspired to take care of young children, ecological resources and promote sustainable livelihoods in South Africa through quality education and training.

See you at EEASA in Grahamstown in September.

*Jeanette Stewart*

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