



LEARNING THROUGH NATURE

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NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2009

Greetings to one and all,

Thank you for positive responses to the last newsletter and a chance to investigate new opportunities. Over the past six months **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** has been busy with many interesting projects, meeting lots of wonderful people and seeing some amazing places.

UNISA – At this time we wish the UNISA first year students all the best for their exam results in Animal Studies, Plant Studies and Conservation Development. May all the hard work and enthusiasm for learning by the students turn into future success. During August I attended a Science Foundation Programme for tutors in Johannesburg. I met fellow tutors in Nature Conservation and many other subjects and discovered that all around the country we share similar joys and challenges.



UNISA students on a practical outing at Thurlow / Midmar

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS COURSE – In September folk from South Africa, Lesotho and Botswana attended the Environmental Educators course run at the Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve. We undertook workplace projects such as wetlands information, a leaflet addressing rangeland degradation, planting trees to mitigate carbon emissions, and teaching nutrition in schools. It was a pleasure assessing the portfolios into which they put much thought and hard work.



An early morning water study during the Environmental Educators Course

MEANDER CHRONICLE – LEARNING THROUGH NATURE submits monthly articles on “Greening the Home” to this local newspaper. Subjects have included green buildings, energy, springtime gardening, waste, parenthood, and our carbon footprint. All articles can be viewed at www.meanderchronicle.co.za, click on regulars.

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.

Jeanette Stewart
Environmental Education Specialist



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TOURISM GUIDING - LEARNING THROUGH NATURE is currently facilitating and assessing courses in tourism guiding in association with **Drum Beat Academy**. The first group of learners from the Wilderness Leadership School at Yellowwood Park in Durban are doing Level 2 or 4 training. Three more individuals with related qualification and experience are going through the process of Recognition or Prior Learning (RPL).



With the group of trail leaders from the Wilderness Leadership School

VALLEY TRUST - LEARNING THROUGH NATURE did a presentation to the staff, during their monthly Wellness Day programme, who wanted to learn more about how to deal with environmental issues and how to calculate their carbon footprint.

"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.

Fun Outdoor Holiday Activities

Children attending the holiday activities run by **LEARNING THROUGH NATURE** at the Dovehouse organic farm had lots of fun. We went on nature trails, experienced sensory activities along the trails, we collected items for art work, told stories, created our own poems, played games and sang songs to



learn more about the world around us.

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE - HELPING YOU CELEBRATE ENVIRONMENTAL DAYS

WORLD WETLANDS DAY: 2 FEBRUARY

WATER WEEK: 15-19 MARCH

EARTH DAY: 22 APRIL

CELEBRATING BIODIVERSITY: 22 MAY

WORLD ENVIRONMENT WEEK: 31 MAY - 4 JUNE

We offer a wide range of hands-on activities for schools focused on these themes. Activities are suited to the particular Grade.

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LEARNING THROUGH NATURE wishes you all the best for a conservation-conscious and aware 2010. Let us prove to the world that each of us can do our share in preserving our beautiful planet – no matter what the outcome was at Copenhagen.

Everything is connected.

Jeanette Stewart

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE PLANS FOR 2010

NATURAL SCIENCES – a year long project, in association with the KZN Education Department, to provide in-service training to encourage teachers to teach outdoors.

CUMBERLAND NATURE RESERVE AND OUTDOOR EDUCATORS – extending the activities offered to groups visiting this beautiful nature reserve to include creative and fun environmental education learning.

KARKLOOF CONSERVATION CENTRE – developing programmes with an emphasis on art and language in these very special wetlands abounding with bird life.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN WILDLIFE COLLEGE – assessment and facilitation of nature conservation courses.

TOURISM GUIDING - LEARNING THROUGH NATURE plans to attain the full tourism guiding qualifications for the whole of South Africa.

UNISA – continue as a tutor, external marker and become involved in exam invigilation.

For teachers from pre-school to high school

LEARNING THROUGH NATURE offers ...

Green-school programmes

- **Greening your School** – environmental policy and practice in schools
- **Greening your Classroom** – teaching environment AND the curriculum
- **Greening your Teaching** – creative ideas to enrich your lessons and teaching materials in all subjects, from language & maths to life sciences & music
- **Greening your Year** – celebrating environmental days, from World Wetlands Day to Big Birding Day

For the agriculture, environment and tourism & hospitality sectors

Learning through Nature offers ...

Enviro-learning programmes

- **Exploring Ecosystems** – hands-on learning about and for local ecosystems, from forests and grasslands to rivers and wetlands
- **Greening your Business** – making your business sustainable and ethical
- **Train the Eco-Trainers** – supporting trainers in the environmental field to develop NQF-based training courses and materials and assessment of portfolios.

For families

Learning through Nature offers ...

Eco-family programmes

- **Greening your Home** – practical things you can do to make your home healthy, happy and sustainable
- **Greening your Neighbourhood** – practical things you can do to green your community
- **Green Hour Activities** – time out outdoors (night and day) for the whole family, holiday courses and guided walks

THANK YOU!

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Jeanette Stewart
Environmental Education Specialist