



# Newsletter

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2009

## "It's a very strange world we live in, Master Jack" by Garth Edwards

On entering camp, I rounded up the students that had not seen elephant and we sped off in pursuit. The thermometer was nudging 40 degrees and the elephants, in my opinion, were heading towards a favoured spring.

We headed straight there and parked in the shade of a knob thorn to await their arrival. Impatient, I decided to investigate the spring, 100 meters off the road, for signs of their presence. I sighted a massive bull giraffe resting under another knob thorn and spoke to him, trying to reassure him that I was only passing and meant no harm.

He fled, crashing through the bush and taking other young males along in his flight. I continued on to the

spring, passing by where he had been standing.

A flattened fawn-coloured shape lay in the shade and I began to back off believing that I had stumbled upon a new-born Impala. I had, but there was something wrong. This was where that giraffe had been standing. The dusty earth and dead grasses had been churned up and I sensed something out of place and approached.

Fresh, scarlet brain-blood had flowed from the baby impala's nostrils to pool thickly in the footprint of a bull giraffe. Lines of gelatinous amniotic fluids streaked the dust and remnants of the foetal sac were still attached to its skin.

A low-voiced grunting caught my attention and I looked up. Females impalas stood, across the spring's drainage line, watching me as I inspected the carcass; one of theirs gone without a chance at life.

I returned to the vehicle to bring the students and their cameras. On closer inspection, the mandible of the impala had been smashed, its incisors kicked from their place and hanging loosely. It appeared that the bull had taken umbrage to this presence of innocence and had kicked the new-born to death!



## Makuleke Camera Trap Babies by Bruce Lawson

As you will see with this photo we had another dumper month with loads of youngsters. We set up at the Hyena den again and Jeff also found a Jackal den with pups that he set the camera up at. Some great results!

Oops...Nearly forgot to mention the lions and leopard.... Sorry!

[Read more here!](#)



## Awesome sights by Rob Francis

**As is usual this time of year, everyone has been predicting the coming of the rainy season, one of the more heated debates in the area.**

Well... the rains have arrived, with a few scattered showers to tease the imagination into thinking that the grass will start growing in the south, which has not happened yet, although the north of the reserve is looking very green and lush already.

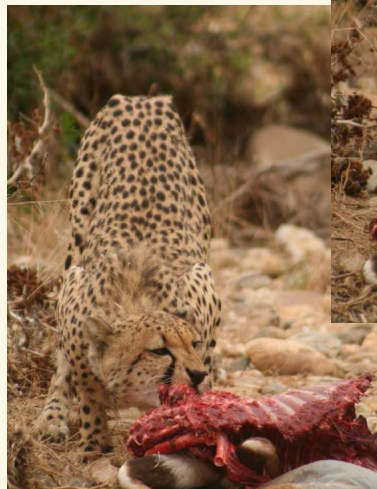
With the male leopard still in the boma in the south we

have had several excellent sightings of both the male and female leopard outside the boma. Jaco was fortunate enough to see the leopards mating, and also witnessed the female leopard catching the grey duiker that had been hanging out around the boma for the past few weeks. We had not given it much chance after seeing it in the area a few times.



During Kristin's assessment drive she found the two male cheetah close to camp. Jaco was on a walk in the area and responded to the sighting being called in over the radio.

As he approached the area he heard the death call of an impala, and hurried into the area. He found the two male cheetah still killing the impala, a young male. What a great sighting on a walk.



The rhino have also been a lot more visible this month. There is a belief in the reserve that the lone male rhino is not performing up to his expected standards, so male rhino dung from a neighbouring reserve has been scattered around the area to fire up his dominance.

He has been following several of the female rhino since the scattering of rival dung, something he has been doing ever since I first saw him here several years ago.

As we are not allowed to drive off-road in the reserve for rhino we had a problem when I located the rhino in the middle of a block on one afternoon drive. Fortunately we managed to get a vantage from a safe point across the river from them, and followed them until they came out on one of the roads in the area.



**Read more of the report here!**

## MAMMAL COURSE COMPLETE WITH GREAT SUCCESS!



The two specialist Mammal Courses with Dr. R. Estes have been completed with much success and enthusiasm.

I wanted to write to express my thanks for the mammal behavior course I attended with Dr. Richard Estes

The venue was excellent, the number of students just right, everyone felt comfortable and able to pursue their knowledge.

Dr. Estes was outstanding not only with his vast knowledge, but also in the manner of his delivery. I have attended a number of courses through various schools, but without doubt this course came top of the class.

Many Thanks, Patricia Goodwin



# Snake Course Launched!

These snake courses are presented to the general public, outdoors people, field guides, farmers, snake keepers, doctors, vets, mining companies, developers, etc. In short, anybody that may come in contact with snakes or snakebite, or that has a general interest or passion for snakes, will benefit from these courses.

The courses are **FGASA** (Field Guides Association of Southern Africa) approved as specialist courses. Those that pass will receive a certificate with the FGASA emblem on it. The Snake ID and Snakebite-Treatment

course is also registered with the **WITS CPD Office** and medical doctors that pass the test can claim 5 CPD points (Continued Professional Development).



### Snake Identification & Snakebite Treatment

**Time:** 08h00 - 12h30

**Content:** It covers the identification of the dangerous snake, the symptoms of snakebite, the first aid treatment, medical treatment and allergy recognition and treatment.

**Itinerary:** 2 tea breaks 12h30 - 13h00 - Lunch 13h00 - 14h00 - Test

### Venomous Snake Handling

**Time:** 14h00 - 17h00

**Content:** This course starts with a lecture. Testing is practical handling under Mike's supervision, and verbal questions and answers as the handling is done.

[Read more here!](#)

## EcoTraining



Pioneer and Leader in  
Field Guide and Nature Training

### Contact

Tel: +27 (13) 745 7777

Fax: +27 (13) 745 7779

### E-mail:

[enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za)

### Office Hours:

Mon to Fri from 8am– 5pm

Closed Public Holidays

WE SAY GOODBYE TO TAFLIN GEBHARDT AND HELLO TO CORNE SCHALWYK THIS MONTH

I will be leaving EcoTraining at the end of November to achieve a few personal goals and to pursue my own e-commerce business.

I have really enjoyed my time at EcoTraining, meeting many of the excited and eager to learn students, while being able to build relationships and future partnerships with our affiliations, ambassadors and above all our agents old and new!

I have learnt many an exciting, interesting and valuable thing in the marketing of EcoTraining along with all the dynamic marketing tools we have on offer today.

I shall miss the passion, laughter and great team spirit the EcoTraining Team has in bringing this wonderful product to light! Taflin

## People and Conservation Magazine Launches...

"There is excellent news for South African conservationists and environmentalists with the launch of the publication of a fresh new magazine. For the first time, insights and opinions from *seven* of the largest conservation and environmental NGOs in the country will have one voice. Aptly entitled **Environment**, the publication demonstrates a remarkable synergy of organisations working to conserve South Africa's rich natural heritage." Yolana Friedmann, CEO: Endangered Wildlife Trust

We have achieved something just short of a miracle with Endangered Wildlife Trust and WESSA - and 5 other NGO's to team into one title. It's called ENVIRONMENT with Dr John Ledger being the founding Editor.

EcoTraining will be publishing a 1/4 page advert in each quarterly magazine, along with an A4 advert in the launch issue, pertaining to EcoTraining South Africa/Australia/Kenya. We look forward to supporting the efforts of all these NGO's and we encourage our students past, present and future to do so any small way possible.

**Authentic Wilderness Bush Camps in the...**  
**Selati and Karongwe Game Reserves & Pafuri - KNP**

Career Courses	Educational Courses
Professional Field Guide - 1 year (Includes practical work experience)	EcoQuest - 14 days (Experience the life of a field guide)
Field Guide - 28 days (FGASA level 1)	Conservation Game Ranger - 14 days (Specialist - Ralf Kahwa)
Trails Guide - 28 days (FGASA)	Wildlife Photography - 5 days (Specialist Lex Hes)
Tracks and Tracking - 7 days (Specialist - Adriaan Louw)	Educational Walking Trails - 7 days (Specialist Johna Turner)
Advanced SKS Birding - 7 days (Specialist Bruce Lawson)	Birding - 7 days (Specialist Bruce Lawson)

Tel: +27 (13) 745 7777 E-Mail: [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za)  
[www.ecotraining.co.za](http://www.ecotraining.co.za)