

# BEST Nature Course NQF2 2022

## Key

	Evening Lectures
	Day Practical
	Weekend Practical
	Optional extras

- Evening lectures are held at St. Stithians College in Sandton. Weekend & day practicals are held at a variety of bushveld venues. Training starts on Saturday morning unless otherwise specified - check module information
- The **BEST Nature Course NQF2 2022** consists of all modules highlighted in shades of green on the calendar. Optional extras are marked in yellow
- Refer BEST Registration form 2022 for course costs

	Date	Module	Lecturer
Earth & Plants Essential for understanding animals – their habitats, diet and behaviour	<b>January</b> Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Course Introduction</b> What to expect in the BEST year of a lifetime	Angela Young
	<b>February</b> Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Story of Earth &amp; Life (Online)</b> The creation of Earth and the development of life forms	Bruce Rubidge
	<b>February</b> Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Taxonomy</b> Classification, kingdoms & characteristics of organisms	Mike Rex
	<b>February</b> Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grasses &amp; Trees - Practical</b> Botany concepts, basic ID tools & skills Sediba overview – geology, ecology, plants & animals <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	BEST Team
	<b>February</b> Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grasses &amp; Ecology</b> The importance of grasses, ecology and links to animals	Angela Young
	<b>February</b> Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Grasses &amp; Ecology - Practical</b> The importance of grasses and their links to animals, soils, vegetation units and animal habitats <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Frits van Oudtshoorn
	<b>February</b> Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Basic Botany Concepts</b> Understanding plants, incl. Fungi & basic life forms	Andrew Hankey
	<b>March</b> Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Trees Characteristics</b> Characteristics for ID – leaves, flowers, fruit, etc.	Andrew Hankey
	<b>Mar 5 – 6</b>	<b>Wildflowers – see below for details</b>	A Hankey
	<b>March</b> Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tree Families</b> Characteristics of major tree families & ID tools	Andrew Hankey
	<b>March</b> Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> - Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Trees &amp; Ecology - Practical</b> Important bushveld trees, ID, characteristics Habitats, uses & links to animals <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Andrew Hankey
	<b>March</b> Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Plants &amp; Ecology</b> Plants and links to animals, signs of the veld	BEST Team
	<b>March</b> Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Veld Management (Online)</b> Principles & Concepts	Frits van Oudtshoorn
	<b>March</b> Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Veld Management</b> Assessing veld condition and animal carrying capacity. Practical veld rehabilitation exercise <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Frits van Oudtshoorn
	<b>March</b> Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Module review (Online)</b> Recap of modules, FGASA workbook	BEST Team

	Date	Module	Lecturer
<b>Earth &amp; Plants</b> Essential for understanding animals – habitats, diet and behaviour	<b>April</b> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Weather &amp; Climate</b> Factors affecting SA's weather and climate	Lee-ann Simpson
	<b>April</b> Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Astronomy</b> Astronomy concepts, SA's night skies	Mike Young
	<b>May</b> Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SA's Geology</b> SA's geological history, major events & groups	Adam Bumby
	<b>May</b> Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bushveld Geology - Practical</b> <b>Kgaswane Mountain Reserve, Magaliesberg</b>	Adam Bumby
	<b>May</b> Tues 17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Geology &amp; Soils</b> Links between geology, soils, vegetation & animals	Pat McGee
	<b>May</b> Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Geology &amp; Palaeontology – Lecture &amp; Practical</b> <sup>1</sup> – Geology and fossils <b>Practical - Rocks, soils, plants, fossils and dinosaurs</b> <b>Golden Gate National Park, Drakensberg</b>	Pat McGee
	<b>May</b> Tues 24	<b>Module review (Online)</b> , FGASA workbook	BEST Team
<b>May</b> Tues 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Creating a Nature Guiding Experience</b> Research, planning, preparation, guiding skills	Mike Young	

Scheduling Astronomy and Weather Practicals is asking for trouble. The skies are clear on weather practicals and overcast for astronomy. These subjects are dealt with on all the weekends, weather permitting!

<b>Ecology</b> Linking Plants & Animals	<b>June</b> Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Bushveld, Biomes &amp; Habitats</b> SA's biomes, Savanna & Grasslands	Angela Young
	<b>Jun 11 -12</b>	<b>First Aid</b> – see below for details	LEX
	<b>June</b> Tues 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Introduction to Ecology, Biomes &amp; Habitats (Online)</b> Basic principles & concepts	Sam Ferreira
	<b>June</b> Mon 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bushveld Ecology</b> Ecological concepts practically applied to the bushveld	Sam Ferreira
	<b>June</b> Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Bushveld Ecology</b> Ecological concepts practically applied to the bushveld	Sam Ferreira
	<b>June</b> Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ecology &amp; Bushveld Interpretation Practical</b> Linking earth & plants to animals. Creating a nature guiding experience <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	BEST Team

<b>Animals</b> Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods, birds, animal behaviour	<b>July</b> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Animals (Online)</b> Evolution of animal life forms	Hanneline Smit-Robinson
	<b>July</b> Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Amphibians (Online)</b> Characteristics, behaviour, habitats, practical ID tools	Jeanne Tarrant
	<b>July</b> Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reptiles (Online)</b> Reptile Orders, characteristics, and behaviour	Mike Adams
	<b>July</b> Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reptiles</b> Reptile Orders, characteristics, and behaviour	Mike Adams
	<b>July</b> Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Reptiles Lecture: Snakes &amp; venom</b> Practical ID from live and preserved specimens <b>Letamo Game Farm, Cradle of Mankind</b>	Mike Adams
	<b>Jul Sun 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Snake Handling &amp; First Aid</b> - See below for details	M Adams

<sup>1</sup> The Geology practical begins 08h00 Saturday morning so students need to arrive by the Friday night. GGNP has 24-hour access  
Director: A. Young FGASA endorsement number 16592

	Date	Module	Lecturer
<b>Animals</b> Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, arthropods (insects, spiders, scorpions), birds, animal behaviour, signs of the veld	Aug Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Module review (Online), FGASA workbook	BEST Team
	August Tues 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mammal Behaviour</b> Understanding mammal behaviour & social organisation	Bennet de Klerk
	September Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mammals</b> Mammal Orders, ecologically important mammals	Hanneline Smit-Robinson
	September Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Animal Behaviour <sup>2</sup></b> Identifying & interpreting sights and sounds of the bush <b>Marakele National Park, Limpopo Province</b>	Hanneline Smit-Robinson
	September Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Herbivores</b> Characteristics & behaviour	Adrian Schrader
	September Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Carnivores</b> Characteristics & behaviour	Hanneline Smit-Robinson
	Sep 23 -25	<b>Bushveld Experience - Pilanesberg</b> see below	WLS guides
	September Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Signs of the Veld</b> Reading the bush newspaper	Glenn Burton-Durham
	October Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Mammals &amp; Signs of the Veld</b> Tracks, dung, burrows, nests, pastings etc. Identifying and interpreting the sights and sounds of the bush <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Bennet de Klerk
	October Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds</b> Major bird Orders, Passerines, and non-Passerines	Lance Robinson
	October Tues 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds</b> Introduction to birds, ID hints and tips	Lance Robinson
	October Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds - Practical</b> Bird ID, habitats, behaviour <b>Broederstroom, Magaliesberg</b>	Lance Robinson
	October Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds</b> Bird ecology, adaptations, characteristics, behaviour	Lance Robinson
	October Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Birds – Practical</b> (starts 05h00 on Sat) Important bushveld birds, ID, characteristics Habitats and links to plants and other animals <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Lance Robinson
	October Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Raptors made Easy</b> Characteristics, behaviour, easy ID hints	Lance Robinson
	October Mon 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Arthropods &amp; Arachnids</b> General characteristics, adaptations	Ian Engelbrecht
	November Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Arachnids</b> Spiders, ID & general characteristics	Ian Engelbrecht
	November Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Arachnids Lecture: Scorpions</b> <b>Practical: Collecting and identifying arachnids</b> <b>Letamo Game Farm, Cradle of Mankind</b>	Ian Engelbrecht
	November Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Insects</b> Hemimetabolic insects, adaptations and characteristics	Dewald Kleynhans
	November Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Insects</b> Holometabolic insects, adaptations and characteristics	Dewald Kleynhans
November Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Insects – Practical</b> Collecting and identifying insects, signs of the veld <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Dewald Kleynhans	

<sup>2</sup> Marakele is a SanParks facility, gate opens 06h00 closes 18h00. Check-in from 14h00

Director: A. Young FGASA endorsement number 16592

Tel: Angela 082-413-0367 Email: [angela@bushveldtraining.co.za](mailto:angela@bushveldtraining.co.za)

P. O. Box 227, Cramerview, 2060

	Date	Module	Lecturer
FGASA	<b>November</b> Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Module review (Online)</b> Recap of modules, FGASA workbook	BEST Team
	<b>November</b> Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Module review (Online)</b> Recap of modules, FGASA workbook	BEST Team
	<b>November</b> Sat 26 <sup>th</sup> Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Creating a Nature Guiding Experience</b> FGASA Practical Assessment Preparation <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	
	<b>November</b> Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FGASA NQF2 Theory exam – Special sitting</b>	
	<b>Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup></b> Thurs - Sun	<b>FGASA Exam – Practical Assessment</b> <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Byron Ross
	<b>January TBA</b>	<b>Graduation</b>	BEST Team
	<b>March</b> Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Wildflowers</b> Demystifying wildflowers Family characteristics, lab work, Practical field ID <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Andrew Hankey
	<b>June</b> Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>First Aid Level 1</b> Requirement for NQF2 qualification	TBC
	<b>July</b> Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Snake Handling</b> Venomous Snakes & First Aid Practical Snake Handling <b>Letamo Game Farm, Cradle of Mankind</b>	Mike Adams
	<b>August</b> Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Mammals &amp; Signs of the Veld</b> Tracks, dung, burrows, nests, pastings etc. Identifying and interpreting the sights and sounds of the bush <b>Sediba Game Farm, North-West Province</b>	Bennet de Klerk
	<b>September</b> Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bushveld Experience – Groups 1 - 3 (option)</b> (3 trails available, groups of 8 – choice of 1) An unparalleled experience in the Pilanesberg wilderness area. Guided trails in the bush, enjoy nature, practically apply knowledge gained. <b>Pilanesberg National Park, North-West Province</b>	WLS Trails Guides
	<b>October</b> Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> – Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Focus on Acacias</b> Lecture – Acacia characteristics Practical Field work <b>Sediba &amp; Tilodi, North-West Province</b>	Andrew Hankey

### Lecturers' Qualifications

Dr Bruce Rubidge	PhD (Geology/Palaeontology), University of Port Elizabeth MSc (Palaeontology) cum laude
Frits van Oudtshoorn	Magister Technologiae (Nature Conservation) ( <i>Cum Laude</i> ) National Diploma, Natural Resource Utilisation National Diploma, Nature Conservation Director of ALUT (African Land Use Training) Accredited with AgriSeta
Andrew Hankey	National Diploma in Horticulture Durban University of Technology MSc. Nature Conservation UNISA Specialist Horticulturalist at Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens
Lee-ann Simpson	MSc Meteorology University of Pretoria Regional training institute, SA Weather Service
Dr Adam Bumby	PhD Geology, University of Pretoria MSc Geology (cum laude), University of Pretoria BSc Geology (with honours), University of St. Andrews, UK Senior Lecturer in structural geology, University of Pretoria
Pat McGee	MSc Agriculture (Soil Science) FGASA Trails guide & ARH FGASA level 3 Professional Field Guide Trails Guide at Wilderness Leadership School
Dr Hanneline Smit-Robinson	PhD in molecular zoology Stellenbosch University. Head of Conservation BirdLife South Africa FGASA NQF2 Field Guide
Bennet de Klerk	FGASA Trails guide & ARH FGASA 3 Professional Field Guide Senior Cyber Tracker FGASA Assessor
Dr Sam Ferreira	PhD in Zoology University of Pretoria Large Mammal Ecologist, SanParks
Michael Adams	BSc Honours (University of Pretoria) – Wildlife Management BSc Environmental Science (University of Cape Town) Director Hoedspruit Reptile Centre
Dr Jeanne Tarrant	PhD in Zoology North West University Threatened Amphibian Programme, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
Dewald Kleynhans	MSc Zoology & Entomology University of Pretoria FGASA Trails guide & ARH FGASA NQF2 Field Guide
Dr Ian Engelbrecht	MSc in Conservation Biology WITS BSc (Hons) Ecology, Environment and Conservation WITS PhD Zoology at University of Pretoria Curator at SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute)
Lance Robinson	BSc Natural Sciences WITS BSc (Hons) Environmental Management UNISA WITS Bird Club Honorary President FGASA NQF2 Field Guide
Byron Ross	FGASA Trails guide & ARH FGASA 3 Professional Field Guide FGASA Assessor