

SASS5 Aquatic Biomonitoring Training Course

6 – 9 December 2010



Venue : WESSA - Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve - Goldfields Education Centre
Howick– KwaZulu Natal

Although based within the Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve, field work will involve some travel to a range of different rivers (and water quality) where a wide selection of typical SASS5 families are likely to be found.

Presenters :

- Dr Mark Graham (GroundTruth Water, Wetlands and Environmental Consultants)
Department of Water Affairs Accredited Regional KZN SASS5 Auditor
- Mr Gary de Winnaar (GroundTruth Water, Wetlands and Environmental Consultants)
KZN Department of Water Affairs - SASS5 Accredited
- Mr Juan Tedder (GroundTruth Water, Wetlands and Environmental Consultants)
KZN Department of Water Affairs - SASS5 Accredited
- Ms Christa Thirion (Department of Water Affairs)
Department of Water Affairs - National SASS5 Auditor
- Mr Wayne Peddie
Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, Environmental Education Course
Expert

Course outline :

The course is designed to provide participants with an applied biological water quality monitoring technique. The key elements of the training course offered include the following:

- Introduction and overview of biomonitoring.
 - Principles, theory, advantages, disadvantages, limitations of the methods. Comparison with classical "wet chemistry" water quality monitoring. Alternative biomonitoring tools/methods. Correct/minimal sampling equipment. Safety associated with field work.
 - Aquatic invertebrates. Adaptations to living in water. Sensitivity to pollution. Adaptations to pollution. Aquatic ecoregions. Preservation of "live" samples - how, when, where. Site selection – characteristics of what constitutes a good aquatic biomonitoring sampling site. Correct/standardised sampling procedures. Overview of using scientific/taxonomic keys. Theory and discussion about preservation of specimen samples. Labelling and curation of samples. Reference and monitoring sites - the key differences and needs of both.
- The various major aquatic orders likely to be found in the river systems, i.e. mayflies (Ephemeroptera), caddisflies (Trichoptera), aquatic beetles (Coleopterans), aquatic bugs (Hemipterans), dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata), flies (Dipterans), stoneflies (Plecopterans), and Crustaceans and Molluscs.
- Testing of understanding and identification skill on live and preserved samples.
- Calculation of SASS indices/metrics.
- Data interpretation and handling.
- Methods and examples of reporting.
- Reference and monitoring sites.
- Quality control. Requirements for accreditation of practitioners
- Design of a biomonitoring programme. Key principles. Frequency of monitoring/reporting.



Cost:

The cost of the course will be R5,500 (excluding VAT) - includes all course material, teas and lunches (excludes accommodation).

Should you wish to purchase the standard SASS5 field equipment the cost will be an extra R1,100 (excluding VAT). SASS equipment will be available to use during the course if required.

Additional aquatic biomonitoring field resources, such as clarity tubes will be available to delegates should they require it.



Delegates must bring appropriate field clothing suitable for working in rivers. Ideally waders, but minimally gumboots (which are needed if working with SASS), or alternatively shoes suitable to get wet, a change of dry clothing, hat, and suncream.

Bookings:

Interested delegates should complete the attached application form and fax to 086 688 6297 or alternatively email it to admin@groundtruth.co.za.

Please note that should there be insufficient response, this course may be postponed. Any delegates who wish to cancel their bookings without a minimum of 14 days notice, are liable for a 50% cancellation fee.

Accommodation

Recommended accommodation is available at Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve. Delegates should arrange their own accommodation.

Cost of the self catering chalets are as follows:

R210.00 pp per night – sharing

R240.00 pp per night – non-sharing

Please note that breakfasts can be ordered for an additional R30.00 per person per day.

For all accommodation queries and bookings, please contact:

Wendy Melrose

Umgeni Valley Nature Reserve

Tel: +27 (0)33 330 3941

Cell: +27 (0)72 828 9180

Fax: +27 (0)86 505 0430

Email: reservations@wessa.co.za

Alternatively, there are many other bed and breakfast options available in the surrounding areas. For more information, visit the following website link for details.

<http://www.countryroads.co.za/content/midlands-meander-accommodation.html>



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Booking Form

(Does not cover accommodation)

Name of Delegate : _____

Company : _____

Postal Address : _____

Telephone Number : _____

Email Address : _____

Fax Number : _____

Company Vat Number : _____

Bookings :

Please make note of the late cancellation clause as indicated above.

Invoices will be forwarded on receipt of your booking.

Signature of delegate

Date

