



Continuing & Distance Education Newsletter

Winter Issue

Director of Adult Learning- Introducing a New Member of Our Team

Adult learners, or life-long learners, might agree that mental, physical, emotional, and economical supports are needed for memorable learning. CDE at NSAC is aware that enhanced supports enrich connectivity and learning! As the new Director of Adult Learning, Dr. Kathleen Kevany will facilitate roundtable discussions with producers and community partners and engage interdisciplinary discussions about possible directions in Agriculture, Food, & Wellness at NSAC. She also invites participation in the development of a strategic vision for adult education. Together with stakeholders, Kathleen will be facilitating an inquiry into how adult education philosophies, policies, and practices contribute to adult learning, self-directedness and a culture of critical reflection as well as intellectual and practical discovery.

Most recently Kathleen was teaching in the Master of Adult Education program at StFX, but originally hails from southwestern Ontario, the banana and tomato belt! Like other youth in the region, she spent her summers working on farms, with fond memories of planting tomatoes, harvesting peppers and cucumbers, as well as detasseling corn. Kathleen encourages the sharing

of stories, being creative, adding value, and being open to making mistakes, but, most importantly, critically reflecting on the learning and its results. As Myles Horton wisely said, "We only learn from the things that we learn from." Kathleen is also an Assistant Professor in the Business and Social Sciences Department and she invites you to connect with her at kkevany@nsac.ca, or a visit with her at Humanities House or feel free to call at (902) 893-6725.



Continuing Education Hosts Professional Development Series

Through CE's Professional Development Series, we have had the opportunity to update our knowledge on key topics in adult learning and continuing education, as well as other areas that are relevant to our partners and stakeholders. So far, the series has highlighted several current and interesting topics from the world of skills training and professional development:

The DACUM Process and What It Means

for CE: After attending Eastern Kentucky University's DACUM Facilitator's workshop in June, Rosaria facilitated a CDE roundtable discussion on the DACUM process, how it can be used and misused, and what the process can do for skills training initiatives.

The PL Centre – Who we are and What we do:

Staff from the Prior Learning Centre in Halifax gave a presentation on Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) and what it means for individuals, employers and institutions of all types. They also profiled their high quality PLAR services and programs and discussed PLAR issues with staff from across NSAC.

The Resume is Dead and Other HR Musings:

Tim Brennan, CVO of HiringSmart, discussed the roots of one of the biggest problems facing businesses and organizations and highlighted some non-conventional approaches (and successes) in hiring, recruitment, and retention. Co-sponsored by AgraPoint and CE, the seminar and roundtable discussion attracted a wide audience from within NSAC and from our broader agricultural and non-agricultural communities.

Topics proposed for the winter include Market Analysis for Adult Learning Programs, SOPs for an Effective Adult Learning Experience, and Just-in-Time Training. Information on upcoming talks will be posted in the NSAC E-bulletin and on the CE website (www.nsac.ca/cde/).

New Online Animal Training Course under Development!

Operant Conditioning Behavior Analysis: Animal Training in the 21st Century (Level I) is a one of a kind, interactive, online course that helps students to develop the necessary skills to train any animal species. Operant Conditioning Behavior Analysis (OCBA) is the standard of care and training in all facets of animal training and husbandry and is used routinely with companion animals, livestock, zoo animals, and animals in veterinary clinics and research institutions. Based on the principles of learning, OCBA Level I uses Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) and a conditioned reinforcer to produce volunteer behaviours of interest to the trainer.



The instructor, Heather A. Logan of Cloverfield Animal Behaviour Services in Brookfield, Nova Scotia, has studied under internationally renowned animal behaviourists such as Bob & Marian Bailey, Karen Pryor, Gary Wilkes, and Silvia Bishop. She has a Level Three certification in Operant Conditioning Behaviour Analysis from the Baileys' in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Heather developed the dog training program, "Pawsitive Directions Canine Program," for Correctional Service of Canada, which she ran with great success for 15 years. The program is world renowned for training reliable service dogs for families with disabilities and also its positive effect on program inmates. To learn more about Heather, go to:

Her youtube account at <http://www.youtube.com/user/CloverfieldBehaviour>

Her facebook account at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cloverfield-Animal-Behaviour-Services/125235530843902>

Her personal website at <http://www.cloverfield-behaviour.com/about.html>.

Through theory, students will gain a thorough understanding of OCBA. Working with their animal, students will practice the mechanical skills of the four techniques of OCBA including shaping, luring, capturing, and molding. Students will hone their training skills through the submission of videos and participation in forum discussions with Heather and their fellow student trainers. The one-on-one approach during the learning process will help students train their animal to perform a 3-link chain behaviour. Don't miss this unique opportunity to learn multispecies animal training.

"Tidal Life": An Illustrated Talk about the Bay of Fundy

On September 30, 2011, NSAC and the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia were privileged to host poet and naturalist Harry Thurston for a talk based on his book: Tidal Life, A Natural History of the Bay of Fundy.

A native of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, Harry is one of Nova Scotia's most well-known and well-respected writers and a prominent expert on the Bay of Fundy. A full-time freelance writer, poet and playwright and a widely respected editor, he is the author of twenty books of poetry and non-fiction. He is also the recipient of numerous writing and journalism awards. He has been the author, co-author or co-editor of reports concerning the state of the environment in both Canada and the US, and his contributions to writing and journalism span the range from essays to books, from poetry to scientific reports.

During this event, the audience was privy to a rare and thoughtful look at the Bay of Fundy and its importance in the world, to the breadth and depth of knowledge that Harry brings to the subject, and to his balanced views on the complex natural and social ecosystem that such a body of water encompasses. As an added bonus, Harry's new book *The Atlantic Coast, A Natural History* had just been published by Greystone Press and the David Suzuki Foundation. Those at the talk were able to pick up a copy and have it signed by the author!

A special thank you goes out to Dr. Bernie MacDonald for welcoming Harry and to Stephanie Rogers, who always seems to find time in her busy day to help bring the Elizabeth Bishop events to NSAC!

COURSES 2011-2012

Modern Shepherd

Module 3 (Health) January 28 & 29, 2012

Module 4 (Lambing and Marketing) April 21 & 22, 2012

Certificate of Specialization in Organic Agriculture (Online)

Start dates in January & September

Master Gardener Training (Online)

Start dates in January, March, & October

Other Upcoming Course Offerings

Introductory Welding (February 24-26, 2012)

Atlantic Poultry Short Course (February 20-24, 2012)

Pesticide Application Technology for Farmers (February 2012)

Pesticide Application Technology for Landscapers (February 2012)

Exploring the Small Farm Dream (March 21 & 28 and April 11 & 18, 2012)

Livestock Medicines – for Meat and Milk (Spring 2012)

Operant Conditioning Behaviour Analysis (Level I) (Coming in 2012)

Please visit nsac.ca/cde

or call **902-893-6666**

for more information

on these and other programs.