



Upper Feather River California Naturalist Course - Spring 2015 Course Syllabus and Information



California program: <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/>

Upper Feather River: http://ucanr.edu/uf_calnat

Lead Instructors/Course Facilitators:

Michael De Lasaux - email: mjdelasaux@ucdavis.edu, phone (530) 283-6125

Mike is a UC Cooperative Extension Advisor serving Plumas and Sierra Counties and a California Registered Professional Forester (#2321). Mike has been involved in forestry and natural resources education and applied research in Plumas and Sierra Counties since 1992. He is a founder of the Forestry Institute for Teachers and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council.

Rob Wade - email: rwade@pcoe.k12.ca.us, phone (530) 283-6500 ext. 5257

Rob is Outdoor Education Coordinator for Plumas Unified School District. He has coordinated the Feather River Outdoor School since 1996, developed the Learning Landscapes program in collaboration with the Feather River Land Trust and the Plumas to Pacific / Feather River Watercourse watershed education program with Plumas Corporation.

Rich Silver - email: rich@uofearth.org, phone (530) 368-6325

Rich is an Ecopsychologist and the founder of the University of Earth which is a nature-based wisdom school dedicated to fulfilling Thomas Berry's call for a single sacred community; creating a world that works for us all, both the human and the non-human. Prior to founding the University of Earth, Rich worked for 29 years as Ranger for California State Parks serving twice at Plumas-Eureka State Park.

Course Description:

The California Naturalist Program is a program developed by the University of California Cooperative Extension to improve environmental literacy and a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration.

Our goals are to: provide training for adult environmental stewards through an adaptable outdoor and classroom curriculum that can be easily applied in a variety of settings, and engage adults in interactive learning that provides them with scientific literacy and critical thinking skills, a science curriculum, hands-on learning, communication training, and community service.

The California Naturalist course will introduce you to the wonders of our local ecology and engage you in the stewardship of California's natural communities. The course will combine a science curriculum with guest Presenters, field trips and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world of upper Feather River.

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand what it means to be a naturalist
- Understand the abiotic, biotic and cultural factors that make California and the upper Feather River natural history and ecology unique
- Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook and on iNaturalist.org
- Demonstrate skills in communicating and interpreting natural resource information
- Apply knowledge of Upper Feather River ecosystems to local and global environmental issues.

Course Components:

Course & Readings

The course will be held on Saturdays over a period of 5 weeks, with weekend sessions at the beginning and end. The course will be hosted at the UC Berkeley Forestry Camp in Meadow Valley, unless otherwise noted. In preparation for lectures, all assigned readings from the *California Naturalist Handbook* should be completed before each course session where they appear on the syllabus. Each session will be a mix of lecture, discussion, eating and outdoor exploration. Dress appropriately for the weather—you never know when the instructor may send everyone outside!

Field Trips

Field trips (see below for dates) will be integrated into the Saturday sessions. We will meet at the UC Forestry Camp in Meadow Valley, unless otherwise noted. Participants may not bring guests or children to any course meeting unless prior approval from the lead course instructor. Field trip instructions will be provided the week prior to the scheduled trip.

Field Notebooks

All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course. Field notebooks may be checked by the instructor periodically during the course or at the end. We will be using these notebooks during course, on field trips and hopefully on your own time. Keeping a field notebook is one of the best ways of fostering continued learning and getting to know a place intimately.

iNaturalist

Over the course of the California Naturalist course, each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (<http://www.inaturalist.org/>) and adding at least 3 observations to the established Upper Feather River California Naturalist project. We will introduce the iNaturalist web tool early in the course.

Capstone Project

Participants are required to complete a volunteer service project in one of four areas: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation, Citizen Science and Program Support. The Capstone project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate the in-course material with an applied work project that is done in conjunction with a natural resource agency or organization. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will share their individual or group project on graduation day. Their presentations will be 5 minutes long per person (so 15 minutes for a 3 person group). A Capstone project proposal form will be provided along with a list of approved project ideas from past California Naturalist course participants, and feedback as necessary. Participants who would like to propose a Capstone project that is not on the list may do so.

Attendance

Participants must attend all course sessions. If a session is missed, the participant must complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor. Please talk with the Lead Instructor if you will miss a course session. Only one course session can be missed.

Homework

Reading is assigned for each course meeting (check the course schedule below), based on the topic to be covered that day. Participants are expected to read the chapters assigned for that day before the course meeting times, so that the materials are more relevant as they are presented. There may be short quizzes or group exercises to reinforce the material in course.

Volunteer management system (VMS):

Participants will be provided an on-line account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Capstone project. Tracking volunteer hours is an essential way to prove need and impact of a program like the California Naturalist Program.

Other Information

Participants may opt to pay an additional \$80 to receive four UC Davis Extension undergraduate academic credits upon course completion and certification. More information will be provided.

This is a zero waste course. Please bring a mug or water bottle for drinks. Washable plates and utensils will be provided for scheduled UC Forestry Camp meals. Participants and instructors will take turns providing snacks. Please avoid single use items or excessive packaging.

Required Items:

- *The California Naturalist Handbook* by Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stanger Edelman and Adina Merenlender (available at Epilog Books, or online)
- An e-mail account
- A field notebook for nature observations and drawings, pencil(s)
- Suggested, but not required: hand lens (10x), binoculars

Recommended supplemental reading:

Field Guides

- *An Island called California*, Bakker, E., University of California Press: 1984
- *A Natural History of California*, Schoenherr, A.A., University of California Press: 1992
- *Introduction to California Plant Life* (California Natural History Guides, 69), Ornduff et al., UC Press: 2003
- *Trees and Shrubs of California* (Calif. Natural History Guides 62), Stuart, Sawyer, UC Press: 2001
- *California Insects*, Powell and Hogue, University of California Press: 1980
- *Spring Wildflowers of California of the Foothills, Valley and Coast* (California Natural History Guides, 75), Munz, P.A., University of California Press: 2004
- *Mammals of California* (California Natural History Guides, 66), Jameson and Peters, UC Press: 2004
- *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*, Sibley, D.A., Knopf Publishing: 2003

Ecological Perspectives:

- *The Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinction*, Quammen, D., Scribner: 1997
- *The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America*, Egan, T., Mariner Books: 2009
- *Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire*, Stephen Pyne 1997
- *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*, Anderson, M.K., University of California Press: 2005
- *In Full View: Three Ways of Seeing California Plants*: Keator, G., Yamane, L., Lewis, A. Heyday Books & Headlands Center for the Arts: 2001
- *The Climate Fix*, Pielke, R. Basic Books: 2011



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Tentative Course Schedule (Speakers all to be confirmed):

Guiding Philosophy: The Feather River California Naturalist Course is an integrated program with classroom lecture intertwined with field experiences. A core principle will be to integrate interpretation with climate change and issues discussion throughout each topic area.

Day, Date, Hours	Time	Activity/Topic	Reading Assignment
Fri, 4/17 Hours = 3	5:00-6:00	Intro (capstone project, citizen science)	Ch. 1 & 8
	6:00-7:00	Dinner	
	7:00-8:00	Weather (review of reading assignment)	
Sat, 4/18 Hours = 15	6:00-7:00	Bird watching	
	7:00-8:00	Breakfast, make lunches	
	8:00-8:15	Welcome, plan for day	
	8:15-10:15	Journaling + introduction to interpretation, iNaturalist	Ch. 1 & 8
	10:15-10:30	Breakfast, make lunches	
	10:30-4:30	Geology, soil (review of reading assignment), Lunch about noon	Ch. 2
	4:30-6:00	Break	
	6:00-7:00	Dinner	
Sun, 4/19 Hours = 8.5	7:00 - 9:00	Astronomy	
	6:00-7:00	Bird watching	
	7:00-8:00	Breakfast, make lunches	
	8:00-8:15	Welcome, plan for day	
	8:15-10:00	Citizen Science and Capstone Project (Quick write on Capstone)	Ch. 8
	10:00-10:15	Break	
	10:30-2:00	Water resources (review of reading assignment), Lunch about noon	Ch. 3
Sat, 4/25 Hours = 6	2:00- 2:30	Wrap-up looking ahead	
	8:00-8:15	Welcome, plan for day	
Sat, 5/2 Hours = 6	8:15-2:00	Wildlife (review of reading assignment) Lunch about noon with additional discussion about Capstone project & citizen science	Ch. 6
	8:00-8:15	Welcome, plan for day	
Sat, 5/9 Hours = 6	8:15-2:00	Forestry (review of reading assignment), Lunch about noon	Ch. 5
	8:00-8:15	Welcome, plan for day	
Sat, 5/16 Hours = 6	8:15-2:00	Botany (review of reading assignment)	Ch. 4
	8:00-8:15	Welcome, plan for day (review of reading assignment)	
	8:15-2:00	Energy/Global issues, Lunch about noon	Ch. 7
	2:00-3:30	Graduation (Capstone draft due & citizen science proposal sharing)	

Total = 53.5