

Deertrails Naturalist Program Cortes Island 2020

The Deertrails Naturalist Program is a week-long workshop inviting deep immersion in the practice of becoming naturalist. Set on Cortes Island in the northern Salish Sea, it's designed for students, teachers, artists, scientists, poets, philosophers – anybody who feels drawn to place-based learning through immersive practice in wild nature.

Participants will be instructed in the specifics of natural history while at the same time being invited to participate in broader naturalist-based perspectives on the living world – not least the question of “right relation” in time of profound disruption and change. At the same time, we will pay close attention to the “here and now,” giving voice to our experience through species lists, field journal entries, drawings, maps, questions, and more contemplative writing pieces.

The workshop is hosted by The Land Conservancy of British Columbia, Linnaea Farm Society and B.C.'s very own **Briony Penn**, with capable assistance from **Ann Mortifee**, **Rex Weyler**, and **Sabina Leader Mense** - all well seasoned naturalists and artists. Cameo instruction this year includes sessions with a cast of Cortesians covering a full spectrum of disciplines.

Operating from the premise that our connection to place arises from the stories we tell, this workshop features a series of naturalist-led walks and talks on an island on an edge - the meeting place of tidal waters, biogeoclimatic zones, and cultural territories. We will walk island shorelines, swim in bracingly cold waters, explore a tapestry of sensitive ecosystems, search for northern goshawk plucking posts and ceremonially welcome in Beltane.

Evenings, we'll share meals, converse in a circle with Cortesians, share stories, music, poetry, and readings – allowing our conversations to run far and long; ever deepening our sense of wonder for the natural world.

Throughout the workshop, leaders will introduce you to the rudiments of island geology and geography, local marine biodiversity through species identification, bird study and

forest ecology, as well as the arts of creating field journals, ceremony, and sacred objects – vehicles to meaning. More generally, we'll be invited to consider how direct experience of the natural world can reimagine our place within it. The goal of this workshop is to learn “how to learn” about the living world – skills we can bring home to our own back yards, classrooms, and beyond.

As a special offering, Ann will share readings from her book, *In Love with the Mystery*.

Dates: April 27 to May 3, 2020

Program Fee: \$695 for those tenting; \$845 for indoor accommodations. Please designate which accommodation style you prefer in your application. Fees include meals catered by Linnaea Farm stewards. Fees are due by March 31, 2020.

Accommodation: Included in the Program Fee is the cost for access to Linnaea Farm's facilities including washrooms, study rooms, quiet spaces, ECOlab, and the Cortes Wild! natural history center. For other accommodations on Cortes Island, please visit www.ourcortes.com.

Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Applicants will be informed regarding the success of their applications in early March.

For more information please contact:

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Usually known as TLC, The Land Conservancy is a non-profit, charitable Land Trust working throughout British Columbia. TLC protects important habitat for plants, animals and natural communities. TLC protects special places through the use of conservation covenants, stewardship agreements and direct acquisition.