



2023 Deertrails Naturalist Program Clearwater River Valley

The Deertrails Naturalist Program is a week-long workshop inviting deep immersion in the practice of becoming naturalist. Set in the beautiful Upper Clearwater Valley near Wells Gray Provincial Park, 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 and features B.C.'s very own seasoned naturalists, artists, and teachers **Briony Penn, Lyn Baldwin, Nancy Flood, Nancy Turner, Maleea Acker, and Trevor Goward.**

Operating from the premise that our connection to place arises from the stories we tell, this workshop features a series of naturalist-led hikes in a valley renowned for its geological history and vibrant ecologies. We will follow deer trails, attend to waterfalls and canyons, listen for the early songs of migrating songbirds, and generally immerse ourselves in an ecosystem awakening to spring.

Each evening we will share meals, converse indoors, huddle around the campfire, share music, poetry, and readings – allowing our conversations to run far and deep. With luck, we will also attend to the nighttime conversations of owls, wolves, and shimmering northern lights.

Throughout the workshop, leaders will introduce you to the rudiments of bird study, plant, fungi, and lichen identification, and forest ecology as well as the art of creating field journals, memory maps, and lyric writing

– vehicles to meaning. More generally, we will be invited to consider how our 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 backyards, classrooms, and beyond.

Dates: April 18 to 23, 2023. Welcome on site late afternoon on April 18. Disperse noon April 23.

Program Fee: \$750 including meals and accommodation. Fees are due by March 31, 2023.

Accommodation: Included in the Program Fee is the cost for shared accommodation in field station cabins at Thompson Rivers University Wells Gray Wilderness Centre. For other accommodations in the Upper Clearwater Valley, please see www.wellsgraypark.info and www.wellsgray.ca. Tent and vehicle camping is available at no additional cost.

Application Deadline: 5 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2023. Applicants will be informed regarding the success of their applications by late 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.

**For more information about TLC
call 1-877-485-2422 or visit
www.conservancy.bc.ca**