



SBBG

CALIFORNIA NATURALIST
DISCOVERY • ACTION • STEWARDSHIP



Natural Reserve System
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Wednesdays 4 – 7:15pm
September 6 – November 8
Plus 5 Saturday field trips
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Blaksley Library

Syllabus Fall 2017

The mission of the UC Certified California Naturalist Program is to foster a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of California's natural resources through education and service. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's program offers training on California natural history, environmental science, and natural resource, with an emphasis on the wider Santa Barbara region.

The following requirements must be met to receive UC certification as a California Naturalist:

- Assigned weekly reading
- Course attendance (absence from 1 class and 1 field trip maximum is allowed)
- Three observations entered into iNaturalist (<http://www.inaturalist.org/>)
- Participation in class citizen science project (to be announced in class)
- Weekly nature journal must be maintained for the duration of the course. Many naturalists find journaling to be a challenge. A new class, *Nature Journals-Your Way*, meets for an hour before the Cal Nat classes, and features 8 guest. Highly recommended, and deeply discounted for Cal Nat enrollees. See below for more information.
- Capstone project (Individual culminating project proposed by participant. Project should take about 8 hours, and may be part of a larger project)
- *Note: For an additional fee, participants may receive 4 credits through UC Davis Extension; to qualify, written answers to discussion questions are required for each week's assigned reading. More information will be available in class.*

Required text: *The California Naturalist Handbook* (de Nevers, Edelman, Merenlender; University of California Press: 2013).

Recommended text: *A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region* (Joan Easton Lentz; Heyday Press: 2013).
Supplemental readings will be assigned.

Please obtain books and complete first reading assignment prior to first class meeting and be prepared to discuss.
Both books are available to registered participants as a package in the Garden Shop for a 15% discount; copies are also available at the public library, or can be checked out from the SBBG Education Office.

Scholarships: A partial refund of fees (\$260 of the \$360 fee) is available for participants who volunteer time in Education Department activities. This may include becoming a docent or other interpretive volunteer, teaching classes, and creating teaching materials. Restrictions apply; please send inquiries to Michelle Gee, Education Office Assistant, mgee@sbbg.org, (805) 682-4726 ext. 161.

Cancellation Policy: If you must cancel enrollment, refunds are granted upon request up to five days before the class begins, less a \$5.00 handling charge. If the Garden cancels a class for any reason, a full refund will be given to all enrollees. Refunds may require four weeks for processing.

California Naturalist Schedule Fall 2017

We have so much to share; class begins promptly at 4 pm each Wednesday!

Week 1: Wednesday, September 6

California Naturalist Program - Introductions

- Speakers: Dr. Steve Windhager, SBBG Executive Director, *The Ethics of Ecological Restoration*
Frederique Lavoipierre, SBBG Director of Education, *Introduction to Journaling*
- Activities: Tour: *Introduction to the Garden*. Frederique Lavoipierre & Michelle Gee
Ice Breaker
Introduce Capstone Project
Reading discussion
- Readings: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 1
A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, Chapter 1 (pages 7-31)

Week 2: Wednesday, September 13

Geology, Climate, and Soils

- Speaker: TBD
- Activities: Reading discussion
Tour: *Rockin' in the Santa Barbara Region*, Susie Bartz, geologist
- Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 2
Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pp 39-42, 48-59

Field Trip #1: Saturday, September 16, 9am to noon

San Marcos Foothills Preserve

Field trip leaders: Geologist Suzie Bartz

Week 3: Wednesday, September 20

Interpretation, Collaboration, and Citizen Science

- Speaker: TBD, *Citizen Science*
Michelle Gee, SBBG Education Assistant, *Introduction to iNaturalist*,
Susan Mazer, UCSB Professor in Ecology and Evolutionary, *CA Phenology Project*
- Activities: Data collection
Reading discussion
- Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 8

Field Trip #2: Saturday, September 23, 9am to noon

Location TBD

Week 4: Wednesday, September 27

Exploration of Plants

- Speakers: Frederique Lavoipierre, *Why Native Plants Matter*
- Activities: Lab: Botany of California Native Plants, Frederique Lavoipierre & Michelle Gee
Tour: *California Plant Families*, Nancy Vivrette
Reading discussion
- Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 4
Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pp 216-234, 386-397

Due: Capstone proposal

Field Trip #3: Saturday, September 30 - 10:00am to 1:30pm

Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Plants & Plant Communities

Field trip leaders: Botanist Sally Isaacson, Volunteer Manager, Arroyo Hondo Preserve

Week 5: Wednesday, October 4

Forest, Woodland, and Range Resources and Management

Speakers: Dr. Sabrina Drill, University of California Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Advisor for Los Angeles and Ventura County and Associate Director, California Naturalist Program, *Conservation Challenges in the Wildland/Urban Interface*

Activities: Reading discussion

Tour: *Carnivores in the Urban/Wildland Interface*, TBD

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 5

Week 6: Wednesday, October 11

Energy and Global Environmental Issues

Speakers: TBD, *Environmental Issues*

Activities: Panel: *From Local to Global*

Tour: *Fire in the Garden*, Rick Zelazny, California Naturalist & SBBG Docent
Reading discussion

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 7

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, Chapter 6

Due: Capstone Project Check-In

Field Trip #4: Saturday, October 14 - 9:30am to 1pm

TBD

Field trip leader: Richard W. Halsey, Director of the California Chaparral Institute

Week 7: Wednesday, October 18

Water in California

Speaker: TBD, *Fresh Water Ecology*

Activities: *Exploring Life in Mission Creek*, TBD

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 3

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, Chapter

Due: Journal Progress Check-in

Week 8: Wednesday, October 25

Exploration of Animals

Speaker: TBD, *Mammals, Amphibians, & Reptiles of Santa Barbara County*

Activities: Tour: *Bird Walk at the Garden*, Rebecca Coulter, SBBG Birding Instructor
Reading discussion

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 6

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pp 91-106, 243-251, 254-259, 282- 290, 411-419

Due: Capstone Project Revisions Check-in

Field Trip #5: Saturday, October 28- 9:30am to 1pm

Sedgwick Reserve: Oak Woodland Communities, Ecology and Food Webs

Field Trip Leader: TBD

Week 9: Wednesday, November 1

The Channel Islands

Speaker: Dr. Denise Knapp, SBBG Director of Conservation & Research, *California's Galapagos*

Activities: Tour: *Channel Island Plants*, Denise Knapp

Nature Journal Presentations

Readings: Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, Chapter 10

Due: Capstone Project Final Review

Week 10: Wednesday, November 8

Topic: Capstone Presentations and Graduation

Speakers: Frederique Lavoipierre, Kate McCurdy, Michelle Gee