



SBBG
CALIFORNIA NATURALIST
DISCOVERY • ACTION • STEWARDSHIP

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. Our class, *Nature Journals-Your Way*, meets before the Cal Nat classes. 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 academic 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 or click [here](#).*

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 once requirements are met for participants who volunteer 40 hours to the Garden's Docent Program. Restrictions apply; please send inquiries to Michelle Gee, Education 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, *Introduction to Journaling (Grinnell Method & John Muir Laws)*
- Activities: Ice Breaker. Introduce Capstone Project. Reading discussion
Tour: *Introduction to the Garden*. Frederique Lavoipierre & Michelle Gee
- 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: Dr. Tanya Atwater, UCSB Department of Earth Science, *How California was Formed*
- Activities: Reading discussion
Tour: *Rockin' in the Santa Barbara Region*, Susie Bartz, geologist & field trip guide
- 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, assisted by Sam Babcock, California Naturalist and SBBG/Sedgwick Docent

Week 3: Wednesday, September 20

Interpretation, Collaboration, and Citizen Science

- Speaker: TBA, *Citizen Science*
Michelle Gee, *Introduction to iNaturalist*,
Frederique Lavoipierre, *Introduction to Mediterranean Climate*
- Activities: Reading discussion
Class Project: Susan Mazer, UCSB Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, *CA Phenology Project*
- Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 8

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

Rattlesnake Canyon

Field Trip Leader: Alan Prichard, SBBG Docent

Activities: Journaling and iNaturalist activity

Week 4: Wednesday, September 27

Exploration of Plants

- Speakers: Frederique Lavoipierre, *Why Native Plants Matter*, (please meet in the Arroyo Room)
- Activities: Reading discussion

Lab: Botany of California Native Plants, Frederique Lavoipierre & Michelle Gee

Tour: *California Plant Families*, Nancy Vivrette

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

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*, David Lee, California Naturalist & Biologist

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 5

Field Trip #3: Saturday, October 7 - 10:00am to 1:30pm

Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Plants & Plant Communities

Field trip leaders: Botanist Sally Isaacson, Volunteer Manager, Arroyo Hondo Preserve, assisted by Bill Lewis, Cal Nat and SBBG/Arroyo Hondo Preserve Docent

Week 6: Wednesday, October 11

Energy and Global Environmental Issues

Speakers: Max Moritz, Berkeley Associate Cooperative Extension Specialist, *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

Chaparral,

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

Week 7: Wednesday, October 18

Water in California

Speaker: Dr. Thomas Even, UCSB Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology, *Fresh Water Ecology*

Activities: *Exploring Life in Mission Creek*, Dr. Thomas Even

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 3

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, Chapter 9

Due: Journal Progress Check-in

Week 8: Wednesday, October 25

Exploration of Animals

Speaker: Kate McCurdy, Wildlife Biologist & Resident Director, Sedgwick Reserve, *Mammals of Santa Barbara County*

Activities: Reading discussion

Tour: *Bird Walk at the Garden*, Rebecca Coulter, Birding Instructor and Volunteer Manager at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

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: Kate McCurdy, assisted by Sedgwick docent

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, Michelle Gee