



SBBG
CALIFORNIA NATURALIST
DISCOVERY • ACTION • STEWARDSHIP

Wednesdays 4 – 7pm
September 5 – November 14
Plus 5 Saturday field trips
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Blaksley Library

Syllabus Fall 2018

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:

- Complete the assigned weekly reading and homework
- 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.
- Capstone project (Individual culminating project proposed by participant. Project should take about 8 hours, and may be part of a larger project)
- *Optional:* Participants may opt in to become a certified CA Project Learning Tree Educator by attending an additional 3-hour PLT mini-workshop and completing a related project for their capstone.
- *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: Limited scholarships available. 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 and scholarship applications to Michelle Cyr, Education Programs Coordinator, mcyr@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 2018

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

Week 1: Wednesday, September 5

California Naturalist Program - Introductions

- Speakers: *The Ethics of Ecological Restoration*, Dr. Steve Windhager, SBBG Executive Director,
The California Naturalist Program, Michelle Cyr, SBBG Cal Nat Administrative Coordinator
- Activities: Ice Breaker, Introduction to Nature Journaling
- Readings: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 1
A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pg. 3-14

Field Trip #1: Saturday, September 8 - 9am to noon

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Field trip leaders: Michelle Cyr

Week 2: Wednesday, September 12

Interpretation, Climate, and Citizen Science

- Speaker: *Introduction to Interpretation*, Kate Rabuck, SBBG Interpretation & Evaluation Coordinator
The California Phenology Project, Susan Mazer, UCSB Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology
- Activities: Walk: *Mediterranean Climate & Plants*, Cathy Rose, SBBG Docent
Class Project: *Data Collection for the CA Phenology Project*, Susan Mazer
- Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 8
Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pg. 14-30

Field Trip #2: Saturday, September 15 - 10am to 1:30pm

Arroyo Hondo Preserve: Plants & Plant Communities

Field trip leaders - Sally Isaacson, Arroyo Hondo Preserve Volunteer Manager

Week 3: Wednesday, September 19

CA Geology and Soils

- Speaker: *How California was Formed*, Dr. Tanya Atwater, UCSB Department of Earth Science
- Activities: 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, Chapter 2

Field Trip #3: Saturday, September 22 - 9am to noon

San Marcos Foothills Preserve

Field trip leaders: Suzie Bartz

Week 4: Wednesday, September 26

Water in California

- Speaker: *Fresh Water Ecology*, Dr. Thomas Even, UCSB Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology,
- 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, pg. 303-326
- Due: Capstone Proposal

Week 5: Wednesday, October 3

Exploration of Plants

Speakers: Natalie Rossington, Plant ID Field Trip Guide

Activities: Tour: *Native Plant Identification*, Natalie Rossington
Botany Basics Lab, Natalie Rossington

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 4

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pg. 173-181, 215-230, 273-276

Week 6: Wednesday, October 10

Forest, Woodland, and Range Resources and Management

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

Activities: Tour: *Animal Tracks in the Urban & Wildland Interface*, Mike Kresky, Tracking Expert & Author

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 5

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, Chapter 11

Due: Capstone Project Check-In

Week 7: Wednesday, October 17

Fire in California

Speakers: *Chaparral Ecology & Sharing Nature with Others*, Rick Halsey, Director of the California Chaparral Institute, *Fire in California & Live Fuel Moisture*, Max Moritz, Berkeley Associate Cooperative Extension Specialist

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

Readings: Required: The California Naturalist Handbook, Chapter 7

Recommended: A Naturalist's Guide to the Santa Barbara Region, pg. 31-38

Due: Journal Progress Check

Field Trip #4: Saturday, October 20 - 9:30am to 1pm

Chaparral location TBA

Field trip leader: Richard W. Halsey

Week 8: Wednesday, October 24

Exploration of Animals

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

Activities: 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, Chapter 11 – various readings about wildlife throughout chapter

Due: Capstone Project Revisions Check-in

Field Trip #5: Saturday, October 27 – 10am to 1pm

Sedgwick Reserve: Residual Dry Matter

Field Trip Leader: Matthew Shapero, University of California Cooperative Extension Livestock & Range Advisor

Week 9: Wednesday, November 7

The Channel Islands

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

Activities: Tour: *Channel Island Plants*, Denise Knapp & Matt Guilliams

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 14

Capstone Presentations and Graduation

Speakers: Michelle Cyr

Due: Capstone Project, Program Evaluation