



Thank you for your interest in Jefferson Land Trust's Northwest Naturalist Program!

There are three principal components to the Northwest Naturalist Program (NWNP): a Natural History Course available to the general public, a Preserve Steward volunteer position with Jefferson Land Trust available to those that have completed the course, and Lead Naturalist volunteer positions.

Natural History Course "Tidelands to Timberline"

The Natural History Course portion of the NWNP provides one of the best and most accessible opportunities for people to become intimately familiar with the natural history of the northeast Olympic Peninsula, and learn more about local conservation efforts through the work of Jefferson Land Trust. Participants learn about the plants, animals, geology, climate, and habitats that make eastern Jefferson County unique. This course utilizes the knowledge and passion of some of the greatest naturalists in the area to teach our local communities about our local ecosystems.

Preserve Steward Positions

This tier of the program provides a boost in the capacity of Jefferson Land Trust to both monitor nature preserves and provide experiences being offered on the land. After individuals have completed the initial Natural History Course, they may choose to apply that knowledge by helping take care of the protected nature preserves in the county (Preserve Steward) and/or lead walks and other experiences in the natural world for the general public (Guide). There is no volunteer obligation associated with the natural history course, but these opportunities are available to those that have completed the course.

Lead Naturalists

Forming the organizing core and knowledge base for the Natural History Course, approximately 6–10 Lead Naturalists are designated at any one time. These Lead Naturalists work directly with the Stewardship and Outreach staff at Jefferson Land Trust to coordinate and administer the Natural History Course, as well as provide support and guidance to land trust conservation and outreach efforts throughout the year. They also help make up and are supported by an Advisory Council for the Natural History Course that includes leaders from the Jefferson Land Trust Natural History Society. Lead Naturalists are distinguished in their naturalist skills, with demonstrated experience and leadership in their study of the natural world.

Purpose of the program

The overall goal of the program is to build sustained support for land and water conservation in Jefferson County by increasing the community knowledge of, appreciation for, and activity in the natural world. The NWNP provides a way for local people to improve their own naturalist skills and knowledge, become more familiar with the land conservation work being achieved by the community through Jefferson Land Trust, and provide opportunities to become more involved in meaningful and important ways.

TIDELANDS TO TIMBERLINE NATURAL HISTORY COURSE - OUTLINE

We invite adults curious about nature to participate in Jefferson Land Trust's eight-week Natural History Course. We are excited to offer this program again, which is suitable for a broad range of our community. If you've got a basic curiosity about the natural world, or even if you have years of experience studying and observing the natural world, this program will provide extensive learning opportunities. Whether you are just curious about the natural environment around you, want to pursue a career as a naturalist, or want to become a volunteer for Jefferson Land Trust or other land steward organizations, this program is ideal for you.

The course is based on field experiences, observations, and reading assignments and will take place over eight weeks, with outings every Friday. After an orientation meeting on Friday, April 14, each session afterwards will be 6-9 hours and will showcase specific habitats, highlighting the plants and animals that occur there, and exploring the various geological, climatic, and other conditions that create each habitat.

Each Friday will be co-led by some of the region's top naturalists specializing in different aspects (i.e., wildlife, geology, botany) of the respective habitat. Each session will include time identifying focal species and qualities of the habitat, ensuring that you will have an opportunity to gain a general and practical knowledge base of the natural history in east Jefferson County. There will be non-structured group time guided by your naturalists in which you explore trailside nature discoveries as they slither, fly, scamper and grow around you. There will also be individual time for you to make journal entries, ask questions of the Lead Naturalists, and share your personal discoveries with the group. Literature will be made available online to help prepare you for each field session.

In addition to the eight Fridays, the course includes assignments to accomplish during the week. You are asked to conduct your own nature observations by sitting quietly at a spot of your choosing (preferably a hotspot for wildlife and close to your home/convenient to get to) at least 20 minutes, 3-5 days a week.

The Natural History Course is scheduled to take place April 14th through June 2nd of 2017. To get the most out of this course, it is important for participants to attend as many sessions as possible. For any missed days, participants will be encouraged to make a field visit to the respective focal habitat accompanied by one of the other participants (and/or Lead Naturalists) during the week. There is a course fee of \$290 to cover program expenses. Scholarships are also sometimes available.

The *Northwest Naturalist Program* "Tidelands to Timberline" Natural History Course is designed to provide a relatively comprehensive overview of the variety of habitats encountered across our local landscape within eastern Jefferson County. The course begins by exploring the marine environment, then progressively moves inland and upwards to eventually end on the ridges of the Olympic Mountains. Each field day we will explore a different focal habitat, typically by visiting more than one site.

In order to facilitate the in-depth knowledge and understanding of fundamental components of our local environment, while not getting lost in trying to assimilate the exhaustive amount of information available during a single spring program, this course is structured to focus on the following central features for each habitat: Habitat Characteristics, Focal Species, and Focal Concepts. These central features are meant to provide a kind of guide through the course – Lead Naturalists are expected to provide insight and more in-depth teaching about these, while also providing general interpretation on other elements of our local environment. Participants are expected to spend time outside of the course field days learning more about (and potentially observing) these elements, and documenting their learning in their journals.

The curriculum for this course also includes an element of having the participants practice teaching some of the natural history information they are learning. The naturalists that have designed this course believe that the act of sharing information with others is one of the most powerful ways to learn, and this component of the curriculum will enhance everyone's learning experience. Guidance and techniques for sharing information will be provided.

PARTICIPANTS: PRINCIPLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Signing up for this course indicates an interest in generating a more meaningful and intimate connection with the natural world. Participants are seeking greater awareness and understanding of the natural world in which we live. They are interested in working with local naturalists to seek this greater awareness and understanding, including visits to areas that they may have not otherwise seen or experienced before.

Participants will familiarize themselves with the **habitat characteristics, focal species, and focal concepts** prior to each field day using different references and suggested readings provided in the course syllabus.

HABITAT CHARACTERISTICS

- a set of qualities that characterize the focal habitat, including the terrain (such as marine waters, sandy/gravelly beaches, riparian wetlands, rocky steep slopes) and vegetation (such as kelp forests, marsh grasses, conifer forests, alpine grasses).

FOCAL SPECIES*

- 4-5 fauna species that are commonly seen and that characterize the focal habitat (such as harbor seals in a marine environment or marmots in a subalpine habitat)
- 4-5 flora species that are commonly seen and that characterize the focal habitat (such as bull kelp in marine waters or western redcedar in a rain forest)

* for the Marine session, we will choose 4-5 marine mammals and 4-5 marine birds

FOCAL CONCEPTS

- ecological and/or geological concepts that are integral to the understanding of the focal habitat and the processes/systems that support life within it

NATURAL HISTORY JOURNALS

Responsibilities of the participant will be primarily recorded in his/her journal. The natural history journals will be a very important learning tool during this course, and will become the participants close companion as observations are made, notes are taken during research, and reflections are contemplated.

The journal entries for each focal habitat should be worked on before each field session, all written with the intention of being able to recognize the habitat characteristics and focal species in the field. Journal work prior to each field day will help you learn a few basic facts about the habitats and species, such as seasonality, key identifying features, behaviors, etc., while also having a basic understanding of any focal concepts before the field day.

IN BETWEEN EACH FIELD SESSION:

- Research the habitat characteristics for the upcoming focal habitat
- Research the basic characteristics (i.e., visual, size, behaviors, seasonality, nomenclature) of the 8-10 focal species for the upcoming focal habitat
- Research more in-depth natural history of one focal species assigned each week
- Do the assigned readings on focal species and focal concepts, adding further research if desired, for the upcoming focal habitat
- Commit to sit at your "sit-spot" for 20-30 minutes at least once a week, preferably at different times of the day
- Complete journal requirements (see above)

FIELD SESSIONS

- Be on time to each session or let others know if you will be unable to attend
- Be prepared to share information on your assigned focal species
- Come dressed for the forecasted weather conditions and be prepared with your journal, writing utensil(s), binoculars, field guides, food, water, sturdy (sometimes waterproof) footwear
- Participate in group discussions, offer insights and impressions, and share research knowledge
- Take notes regarding focal concepts, habitat characteristics, and focal species
- Make field observations and record these in your journal

LEAD NATURALISTS: PRINCIPLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We have a cadre of highly trained and skilled naturalists in the community that have generously agreed to support Jefferson Land Trust and the Northwest Naturalist Program. Lead Naturalists come with a variety of backgrounds, insights, perspectives, and techniques. Their primary role in this course will be

to help enhance your observational skills, increase your capability to ask relevant and intelligent questions, and help you become more familiar with the natural world. Lead Naturalists want participants to wonder about their observations, and eventually have new tools and confidence to find their own answers. Lead Naturalists also want to recruit involvement in the conservation movement, and with that in mind, will be focused on building participant's appreciation and understanding of the natural world.

A central theme for this course is: Through intentional observation we build awareness of the ecological interconnections around us which inspires appreciation.

Below are some general guidelines that Lead Naturalists will follow in order to create a consistent framework for the participants. Lead Naturalists will use their own unique teaching styles and ways of presenting ideas and will augment the field sessions by going into depth in subjects that they are passionate and knowledgeable about.

DURING THE FIELD SESSION LEAD NATURALISTS WILL:

- Share observations and understandings associated with the **habitat characteristics** of the focal habitat, allowing participants to offer suggestions.
- Provide opportunities for participants to interpret, offer their impressions/insights and share their knowledge of each species when one of the 8-10 **focal species** is encountered
- Support participants with feedback, clarifications, and corrections.
- Present and discuss with participants the **focal concepts** for each focal habitat, especially as they relate to the **focal species**.
- Facilitate discovery of the focal habitat--generally "be the naturalist" as in a guided walk/tour.
- Facilitate learning activities, and demonstrate Interpretive Techniques.
- Make suggestions of various journaling techniques and styles.

COURSE SCHEDULE – TIDELANDS TO TIMBERLINE

Orientation- Friday April 14

Location: TBD, Downtown Port Townsend

Time: 9am-2:30pm

Marine Environment - Friday April 21

Location: Port Townsend Marine Science Center and on the PS Express boat trip

Time: 9:30am-6pm

Shorelines - Friday April 28

Location: Discovery Bay, Port Townsend Bay

Time: 8am-4pm

Rainshadow Forests and Prairies - Friday May 5

Location: Fort Townsend SP, PT Golf Course Native Prairie, Ft Worden Coastal Strand

Time: 8am - 4pm

Aquatic and Riparian Environments - Friday May 12

Location: TBD – possibly Snow and Salmon Creeks, Anderson Lake State Park

Time: 8am-4pm

Temperate Rainforests – Friday May 19

Location: Duckabush River

Time: 8am-4pm

Montane Forests - Friday May 26

Location: Upper Big Quilcene River Watershed

Time: 8am-4pm

Subalpine and Alpine Environments - Friday June 2

Location: Hurricane Ridge

Time: 8am-5pm

Following the completion of the Natural History Course, participants may be interested in continuing their study of the natural history of the Olympic Peninsula by joining the Natural History Society (see <http://jltnatural.org/>)

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS: STUDENT TO STEWARD

After you have completed the Natural History Course, you may want to deepen your knowledge and skills in the second phase of the Northwest Naturalist Program and prepare to become a volunteer for Jefferson Land Trust. You are invited to utilize the knowledge you garnered as a “student” of northwest natural environments and apply it as a “steward” to help preserve and protect those environments. “Steward” is defined by the New Oxford American Dictionary as “a person whose responsibility it is to take care of something.” In the stewardship phase of this program you will learn skills of how to take care of local habitats.

PRESERVE STEWARD – TRAINING JULY 2017

Preserve Stewards will undergo an orientation training to learn how to make relevant observations, gather data, and implement elements of applicable management plans on protected properties. Preserve Stewards will be the primary observers of protected properties for Jefferson Land Trust, and will report regularly to the Stewardship staff at Jefferson Land Trust – in essence they will develop a strong relationship with these properties, which will help increase the sense of community ownership of these properties as well as increase the capacity of Jefferson Land Trust to achieve management goals.

PROGRAM COORDINATION



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