

Deertrails Naturalist Program

2019 Session: Speak to the Wild II

Speak to the Wild II 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, the Wells Gray Wilderness Society and B.C.'s very own **Briony Penn**, with capable assistance from **Lyn Baldwin** and **Trevor Goward** - all well seasoned naturalists and teachers. Cameo instruction this year includes sessions with **Nancy Flood** (ornithology), **Cathie Hickson** (volcanology) and **Andy MacKinnon** (mycology).

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.

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

Throughout the workshop, leaders will introduce you to the rudiments of volcanology, 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'll be invited to consider how 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 back yards, classrooms, and beyond.

As a special offering, Trevor will introduce participants to his “Naturalist of the Middle Way” teachings.

Dates: May 7 to 13, 2019 (Welcome on site in Upper Clearwater at 7:00 p.m. on 7 May. Disperse noon May 13)

Program Fee: \$595 + GST. Includes meals and accommodation. Fees are due by March 29, 2019.

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 Thursday, February 28, 2019. Applicants will be informed regarding the success of their applications in early 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.