



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 each year to help support the course. These Lead Naturalists work directly with the Stewardship and Outreach staff at Jefferson Land Trust to provide instruction and guidance during the Natural History Course, as well as provide support and guidance for 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. Past course participants also volunteer each year to support the Lead Naturalists during the course days.

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 this coming spring. The Natural History Course is scheduled to take place each Friday, April 13th through June 1st of 2018. Friday instruction days are typically scheduled to be approximately 6-8 hours. There is a course fee of \$290 to cover program expenses. Scholarships are sometimes available.

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 *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 on the northeast side of the Olympic Peninsula. 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.

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 the northeast portion of the Olympic Peninsula. In addition to the eight Fridays, the course includes assignments to accomplish during the week as well.

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, and Focal Species. Lead Naturalists will 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 (typically around 3-8 hours/week) 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.

Responsibilities of the participant will be primarily recorded in their journal (blank journals provided). 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.

Participants will familiarize themselves with habitat features and focal species prior to each field day using different references and suggested readings provided in the course syllabus. Journal work prior to each field day will help participants 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.

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.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE – TIDELANDS TO TIMBERLINE

Orientation- Friday April 13

Location: TBD, Downtown Port Townsend

Time: 9am-2:30pm

Marine Environment - Friday April 20

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

Time: 9:30am-6pm

Shorelines - Friday April 27

Location: Port Townsend Bay

Time: 8am-4pm

Rainshadow Forests and Prairies - Friday May 4

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

Time: 8am - 4pm

Aquatic and Riparian Environments - Friday May 11

Location: Snow and Salmon Creeks, Anderson Lake State Park

Time: 8am-4pm

Temperate Rainforests – Friday May 18

Location: Duckabush River

Time: 8am-4pm

Montane Forests - Friday May 25

Location: Upper Big Quilcene River Watershed

Time: 8am-4pm

Subalpine and Alpine Environments - Friday June 1

Location: Hurricane Ridge

Time: 8am-5pm

Subalpine and Alpine Environments - Friday June 8

Location: To be decided

Time: 12:30-2:30pm

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 2018

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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