

Turtle Island Restoration Network

California Naturalist Course

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| Instructor Harry McGrath Phone (415) 254-7185 Email hmcgrath@seaturtles.org Course Start & End 02/11/2020  03/17/2020 CalNat Website <http://calnat.ucanr.edu> Registration <https://seaturtles.org/campaigns/california-naturalist-course> Course Fee $425 Course Location 9255 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Olema, CA, 94950 Course Schedule Tuesdays – 6pm-8:30pm Saturdays – 9am-3pm | Course Overview **General**. The UC California Naturalist Program seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education, and restoration. The UC California Naturalist course will introduce you to the wonders of our local ecology and engage you in the stewardship of California’s natural communities. The course will combine a science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world.  This UC California Naturalist Course will introduce you to the incredible ecosystems of Marin County. It will cover everything from redwood forests and oak woodlands to the offshore California current ecosystem. We will explore the history and breadth of peoples involvement with nature, from the traditional ecological knowledge of the Southern Pomo, to the scientific approach of western naturalists. It will help you to connect more deeply with the natural world around you, and assist you in becoming a steward of this land, doing your part to help conserve these incredible locations for future generations. Learning Outcomes  * Understand what it means to be a naturalist. * Integrate knowledge about the interconnectedness of abiotic, biotic and cultural factors and their influence on the natural history of the central coast. * Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook. * Apply knowledge of the local bioregion to local and global environmental issues. * Meet all of the course requirements.  Course Requirements  * **Contact Time**: Each UC California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of 40 educational hours (classroom hours and field time), which includes a minimum of 8 hours in the field. * **Required Reading**: Read the entire book “[The California Naturalist Handbook](https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520274808/the-california-naturalist-handbook),” read any relevant bioregional or topical publication from the [UC ANR California Naturalist](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/calnat_pubs/) Series available online, and complete assigned homework. * **Class Attendance and Field Trips**: Only one class session (2.5 hours) can be missed and participants should work with their instructor to organize a make-up experience or assignment to complete in their own time. Because of the unique aspects of field trips, participants must attend all field trips. * **Capstone Project**: Participants are required to complete a Capstone Project in one of four areas: Stewardship, Education/Interpretation, Citizen Science or Program Support. The Capstone Project provides an opportunity for participants to integrate their own personal interests with the in-class material toward the development of an applied work project that is done in conjunction with a natural resource agency or organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Capstone Projects in the first two weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will deliver and individual or group capstone presentations (5 minutes long per person) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the capstone project and will add hours spent on the Capstone Project into the volunteer portal. * **Using a Field Notebook and Journal**: All participants are required to keep a field notebook during the course and hopefully beyond. We will be using the journals during class, on field trips, and hopefully on your own time. Keeping a field journal is one of the best ways to foster continued learning and get to know a place intimately. * **iNaturalist Observation and Partner iNaturalist Project**: Over the course of the UC California Naturalist class, each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (http://www.inaturalist.org/) and adding at least 5 observations to the course iNaturalist Project. Our iNaturalist Project is “SPAWN Lagunitas UC California Naturalist Project” ([www.inaturalist.org/projects/spawn-lagunitas-uc-california-naturalist-project](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/spawn-lagunitas-uc-california-naturalist-project)) * **Class Citizen Science Project**: Each participant must contribute to the citizen science project adopted by the class. * **Evaluation**: Completion of the online post-course evaluation survey is highly encouraged. You will be provided with a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course. * [**Volunteering and Volunteer Portal (VMS)**](https://vms4.ucanr.edu/)**:** Participants will be provided with an online account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Capstone Project. Tracking volunteer hours is optional but strongly encouraged as an essential way to prove need and impact of the UC California Naturalist Program.  Required Text  * [The California Naturalist Handbook](https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520274808/the-california-naturalist-handbook), Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stranger Edelman, Adina Merenlender.   **Recommended supplemental reading**   * The California Current, *Stan Ulanski*.  Course Materials The first three course materials are required. Please notify the instructor immediately if you do not have an e-mail account. The last two are helpful but are not required.   * **Required:** Access to internet connected computer or phone and an email account for communication, Volunteer Portal access, and iNaturalist. * **Required:** Field Notebook (If you don’t own one, the types of journal will be discussed during the first course session.) * **Required:** Pencil(s) * **Recommended:** Hand lens (10x) * **Recommended:** Binoculars  Recommended Resources  * [**CalNat YouTube Channel**](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg)**:** View videos from UC California Naturalist conferences, meetings, and more. The “Ecosystems of California” video series with Erika Zaveleta, is also available on the channel. *Url:*<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg> * [**CalNat Mapping Tool**](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/)**:** UC California Naturalist provides a GIS-based map producing tool you can use for both content delivery and logistics. Choose from multiple base maps and layers to explore bioregions, compare and contrast filed sites, create maps to field trips and capstone projects and more. *Url:* <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/>  Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal Volunteering: Participants are encouraged to complete at least forty (40) hours of volunteer service each year. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pins differ from year to year.   * Volunteer activities need to relate to California’s natural or environmental history, occur in California, be sponsored by an organization, and be UNPAID.   + Classification of hours include conservation/restoration, education/interpretation, citizen science, and program support. * Your 8-hour capstone project will count toward your first year’s volunteer hours. You will log these hours into the [UC Volunteer Portal](https://vms4.ucanr.edu). A welcome e-mail will be sent to you after instructors add your information to the system. Notify your instructor if you do not receive that e-mail. You will be provided with a user name and password in the introductory e-mail after the start of the class. * The portal website is <https://vms4.ucanr.edu/>. * There are resources available to help you familiarize with the UC California Naturalist volunteer portal and commonly used features. Check out our help guides and videos geared toward users and program administrators. *Url:* <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/>   **Course Credit**  Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through [UC Davis Extension](https://extension.ucdavis.edu/areas-study/land-use-and-natural-resources/ca-naturalist-program) for an additional nominal fee. Graduates who expressed interest in this opportunity with their instructor will receive a communication from the UC California Naturalist program post-course with information on how to obtain the optional credits. |

Homework Policy

Assigned readings from The California Naturalist Handbook must be completed each week before class as we will be reviewing the chapter and building on that knowledge during the lectures.

# Attendance Policy

Participants must complete a minimum of 40 hours of instruction during the class. Only one class session (2.5 hours) can be missed and participants should work with their instructor to organize a make-up experience or assignment to complete in their own time. Participants who miss more than one class session are not eligible for the California Naturalist certificate. Because of the unique aspects of field trips, participants must attend all field trips. In the case of an emergency and the field trip is missed, participants may be able to arrange an alternative option with the instructor.

# Cancellation Policy

Registrants may cancel up to two weeks before the first day of instruction for a full refund, minus a $50 administrative fee. Registrants that can successfully refer another student to replace their spot in the course prior to the first day of class will receive a full refund. Registrants that experience a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, between the two weeks of class before and after instruction has begun may re-enroll in the following year's course at a 50% discounted rate, with priority for early registration. No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund.

# Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods including lecture, presentations, peer-to-peer discussion, small group activities, hands-on and inquiry based activities, experiential learning. Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please make such requests as early as possible by contacting Harry McGrath.

# Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

Turtle Island Restoration Network will attempt to provide reasonable accommodations to program participants with disabilities. If you have a learning or physical need that will require special accommodations in this class you will need to notify your instructor in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify at least two weeks prior to the first class if you require any special accommodations. This will allow us ample opportunity to provide suitable accommodations. We make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Materials will be available in alternate formats (Braille, audio, electronic format, or large print) upon request.

# Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Students are responsible for course fees, any travel costs, and purchasing a copy of [The California Naturalist Handbook](https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520274808/the-california-naturalist-handbook). Four UC credits are also available for an additional fee.

TIRN is also offering five scholarships to members who will share the knowledge they learn with underrepresented communities. If you believe you would qualify, please email Harry McGrath at [hmcgrath@seaturtles.org](mailto:hmcgrath@seaturtles.org).

# Class Schedule

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| Date | Topic/Subject (instructional activity)  (Reading/Assignments Due) | Meeting Location | Speaker  (Title & Affiliation) |
| Feb 11  18:00-20:30 | **Introduction & Administration**  (Ch. 1) | SPAWN Office | Brook Gamble, California Naturalist Community Education Specialist |
| Feb 15  9:00-15:00 | **Geology, Soils and Climate**  Field Trip: Geology of Marin County  (Ch. 2) | Ring Mountain  <https://goo.gl/maps/R8kn3Mbaw4oXkHBp6> | Steve Newton, Professor of Geology at College of Marin |
| Feb 18  18:00-20:30 | **Interpretation & Citizen Science**  (Ch. 8; Capstone Project Outline Due) | SPAWN Office | Lisette Arellano, Community Science Program Manager at OneTam |
| Feb 22  9:00-15:00 | **Water Resources**  Field Trip: Watershed Tour  (Ch. 3) | SPAWN Office | Preston Brown, Director of Watershed Conservation at SPAWN |
| Feb 25  18:00-20:30 | **Plants**  (Ch. 4) | SPAWN Office | Audrey Fusco, Native Plant Nursery Manager at SPAWN |
| Feb 29  9:00-15:00 | **Forests, Woodland and Range Resources and Management**  Field Trip: Native Plants and Forest Ecosystems  (Ch. 5) | Samuel P. Taylor SP  <https://goo.gl/maps/epSoLeLxmsFd6DaB8> | Deborah Zierten, Education & Interpretation Manager at Save the Redwoods League |
| Mar 3  18:00-20:30 | **Energy & Global Environmental Issues**  (Ch. 7; Capstone Project Check In) | SPAWN Office | Alex Porteshawver, Senior Sustainability Coordinator at Drawdown Marin |
| Mar 7  9:00-15:00 | **Oceans**  Field Trip: California Coast & Tide Pooling | Point Reyes Seashore  <https://goo.gl/maps/thiZP4Em28pAN99Q8> | Chris Pincetich PhD., PRNSA Field Institute Instructor |
| Mar 10  18:00-20:30 | **Indigenous Land Management Techniques**  (Distribute Course Evaluation Link) | SPAWN Office | Nick Tipon, Elder of the Coast Miwok Tribe |
| Mar 14  9:00-15:00 | **Animals**  Field Trip:Bird Banding & Tracking  (Ch. 6; iNaturalist Observations Due) | Palomarin Bird Observatory  <https://goo.gl/maps/Hc7fKWB4QEfYgAZP6> | Diana Humple, Point Blue Avian Ecologist & Banding Coordinator  Richard Vacha, Founder of the Point Reyes Tracking School |
| Mar 17  18:00-20:30 | **Capstone Presentations and Graduation**  (Course Evaluations) | SPAWN Office | Harry McGrath, Outreach Coordinator at SPAWN |