

UC California Naturalist



Pepperwood

Inspiring conservation through science



Instructor

Summer Swallow, M.Ed.

Contact Info

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PepperwoodPreserve.org

Course Schedule

Saturdays, January 8 –
March 12, 2022; 9am-2pm
Includes indoor classroom
time and outdoor field
exploration

UC California Naturalist Website

<http://calnat.ucanr.edu/>

Registration

[https://www.pepperwoodpr
eserve.org/?event=uc-
california-naturalist-
course&event_date=2022-
01-08](https://www.pepperwoodpreserve.org/?event=uc-california-naturalist-course&event_date=2022-01-08)

Course Fee

\$450

Course Location

Pepperwood Preserve
2130 Pepperwood Preserve Rd
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Course Overview: The UC California Naturalist program seeks to foster a committed corps of volunteer naturalists and community scientists trained and ready to take an active role in natural resource conservation, education and restoration. The California Naturalist course will introduce you to the wonders of our local ecology and natural history through guided observation and stewardship. The course curriculum will combine a science-based curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips, and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world of the Mayacamas Mountains where Pepperwood Preserve resides.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this 10-week course, participants should be able to...

- Describe what it means to be a naturalist.
- Communicate about the natural history of local flora and fauna.
- Describe the interconnectedness of biotic and abiotic factors and their influence upon a landscape.
- Record observations in a field journal and within iNaturalist.org
- Communicate about local environmental issues.

Pepperwood: Located in the heart of Northern California's Sonoma County, a globally-recognized biodiversity hotspot, Pepperwood provides an important refuge for more than 900 species of plants and wildlife and serves as a living laboratory and conservation think tank for researchers and educators from around the world.

Our mission is to inspire conservation through science. We believe that our wellbeing depends on the health of our natural world. Everyday our team studies California's land, water and wildlife so we can educate decision-makers, our community and the next generation about how best to care for the Earth. With guidance grounded in science, we can all take action to sustain the planet that sustains us.



Course Requirements

- **Class Attendance and Field Trips:** The UC California Naturalist course consists of 50 educational hours (classroom, field time), including a minimum of 24 hours in the field. Each of our 10 class sessions will include time inside the classroom for presentations and discussions and expeditions outside in the field, rain or shine. Participants must attend all 10 sessions of this course to earn a UC California Naturalist certification. If one class meeting is missed, the participant will be expected to complete make-up activities on their own time at the direction of the instructor.
- **Required Reading and Course Work:** Read the entire [UC California Naturalist Handbook](#), and complete all assigned homework. *Each assigned Handbook chapter should be read prior to that class session*, this will make material shared during class more relevant. Each participant will complete a field journal, Capstone Project and contribute to our Class Participatory Science Project.
- **Field Journals:** Participants are required to keep a field journal during the course which will serve as the primary means of recording observations during our time in the field each class session. Keeping a field journal is an essential skill for naturalists and one of the best ways to foster continued learning of our natural world. *Please bring your field journal and writing utensil to every class session.* Your journal can be any easily portable notebook that is comfortable to utilize while standing, sitting or walking outside. Each journal entry should contain a description of the day's observations using a combination of words, numbers, and sketches; plus any supplemental material such as a species list, map, collected specimens, etc. *We will discuss field journals during our first class session.*
- **Capstone Project:** Participants are required to complete an independent Capstone Project in one of six areas: Community Resilience and Adaptation, Environmental and Climate Justice, Conservation/Restoration (Stewardship), Participatory Science, Education/Interpretation, 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 done in conjunction with a community organization. Participants must get pre-approval for Capstone Projects in the first three weeks of the course. Participants are encouraged to work in teams when appropriate. Participants will share their Capstone during a presentation (5 minutes per person) on graduation day. Participants are expected to spend a minimum of 8 hours on the capstone project, and may apply these as 8 volunteer hours in the Volunteer Portal. *More information about Capstone Projects will be provided during our first class session.*



- **Class Participatory Science Project:** Each participant must contribute to the participatory science project adopted by the class. Our class participatory science project is the [Pepperwood Vital Signs UC California Naturalist Project](#) on [iNaturalist.org](#). Each student is required to post at least 1 observation per week, for a total of at least 10 observations by the end of our course. *We will review iNaturalist during our first class session.*
- **Evaluation:** Completion of the evaluation survey is critical for the ongoing success and improvement of the course. You will be provided with a link to the official CalNat evaluation survey toward the end of the course and during our final class day, you will be provided a paper evaluation for additional feedback.
- **Volunteering and Volunteer Portal (VMS):** Participants will be provided with an online account to track their volunteer hours, including hours spent on their Capstone Project. Tracking volunteer hours is an essential way to prove the need and impact of the UC California Naturalist Initiative. (See page 5 for more details about Volunteering)

Course Materials

- Reliable transportation to and from Pepperwood Preserve each Saturday.
- Access to internet connected computer or mobile device and an email account for communication and Volunteer Portal access.
 - *Please notify the instructor immediately if you do not have an e-mail account.*
- Field journal and pen/pencil
- *Field expeditions items:*
 - Sturdy walking shoes, dress in layers, hat, rain jacket/pants, water bottle, lunch & snacks, personal medicine, cell phone/camera for iNaturalist observations, backpack, enthusiasm & curiosity
 - *Optional:* binoculars, field guides, hiking poles, hand lens

Required Text

- de Nevers, G., Edelman, DS. & Merenlender, A. (2013). *The California Naturalist Handbook*. University of California Press.

Optional supplemental reading

- Bakker, E. (1984). *An Island called California*. University of California Press.
- Laws, J. (2007). *The Laws field guide to the Sierra Nevada*. Heyday Press.
- Harrington, H.D. (1985). *How to identify plants*. Swallow Press Books.
- Young, J. (2012). *What the robin knows*. Mariner Books.



Many excellent field guides exist, find the style and format that's most helpful to you! Here some you may consider, grouped by category. I encourage you to browse your local library before purchasing.

- Stuart, J. & Sawyer, J. (2001). *Trees and shrubs of California*, California Natural History Guides. University of California Press.
- Watts, T. (2004). *Pacific coast tree finder*. Nature Study Guild Publishers.
- Vitt, D., Marsh, J. & Bovey, R. (1988). *Mosses, lichens & ferns of Northwest North America*. Lone Pine Publishing.
- Kress, S. & Wolfson, E. (Eds.). (2017). *Pocket birds of North America*, American Museum of Natural History. DK Publishing.
- Kaufman, K. (2005). *Kaufman field guide to birds of North America*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Sibley, D.A. (2003). *The Sibley field guide to Birds of Western North America*. Knopf Publishing.
- Eaton, E. & Kaufman, K. (2007). *Kaufman field guide to insects of North America*. Houghton Mifflin Books.
- Jameson, Jr, E.W. & Peeters, H. (2004). *Mammals of California*, California Natural History Guide. University of California Press.
- Sheldon, I. (1998). *Animal tracks of Northern California*, Lone Pine Field Guide. Lone Pine Publishing.
- Stebbins, R. & McGinnis, S. (2012). *Field guide to amphibians and reptiles of California*, California Natural History Guides. University of California Press.

Recommended CalNat Resources

- **CalNat YouTube Channel:** View videos from UC California Naturalist conferences, meetings, and more. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGBYG5ShV4VDiUiRbEmmObg>
- **CalNat Mapping Tool:** UC California Naturalist Program 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 field sites, create maps to field trips and capstone projects and more. http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/CalNat_Maps/



Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal

All participants completing this course will receive a California Naturalist pin and certificate.

Participants are encouraged to continue performing at least 40 hours of volunteer service each year at an organization of their choosing to receive additional annual pins. Pins are awarded each year for participants who meet this goal, and the pins differ from year to year.

- Volunteer activities must relate to Community Resilience and Adaptation, Environmental and Climate Justice, Conservation/Restoration (Stewardship), Participatory Science, Education/Interpretation, or Program Support, be sponsored by an organization, and be UNPAID.
- Interested in developing a long-term relationship with Pepperwood? Become a Pepperwood Steward! Pepperwood Stewards are the cornerstone of Pepperwood's volunteer community. In addition to receiving unique access to the Preserve and special events, these dedicated volunteers have the opportunity to contribute to research and restoration projects while working collaboratively with Pepperwood's network of scientists. Stewards receive discounts on classes and events, and are part of a vibrant community of passionate nature enthusiasts. For more information on becoming a Pepperwood Steward and how to get started, contact Sloane: SShinn@PepperwoodPreserve.org
- Your 8-hour capstone project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You (not your instructor) will log these hours into the [UC Volunteer Portal](#). A welcome e-mail will be sent to you after your information is added to the system; this email will be sent to the email you provided during course registration. Notify your instructor if you do not receive that e-mail. You will be provided with a username and password in the introductory e-mail after the start of the class.
- The Volunteer 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: http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Resources/VP_Help/

Homework Policy

All homework assignments are due according to the date posted in google classroom. Each chapter of the course Handbook is due prior to the start of our class discussion for that chapter. It is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments on time. If there are extenuating circumstances, it is the



student's responsibility to contact the instructor to make individual arrangements. If students have difficulty using the google classroom or submitting homework, contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy

Participants must complete a minimum of 40 hours of course work comprised of in-person classroom lecture/discussions/field time at Pepperwood Preserve, independent Capstone Project work, contributions to our class participatory science project and asynchronous independent study. Only 1 class session (5 hours total) can be missed, and participants will need to request a make-up session or assignment from their instructor for the missed class. Participants that miss 2 or more classes are not eligible for the UC California Naturalist certificate unless they have received prior approval from the instructor.

Cancellation Policy

A full refund will be given for cancellations 21 days (3 weeks) or more before the start of this event. For cancellations within 20 to 8 days (2 weeks) before the event, a 50% refund will be given. Refunds will not be given for cancellations within 7 days of this event. However, 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 must cancel due to a verifiable medical emergency personally, or in their family, within 20 days (2 weeks) before the course begins and before the third class meeting on January 22, will receive a full refund. No other cancellations, for any other reason, will result in a refund.

Instructional Methods

The course will integrate a range of instructional methods including in-class presentations, peer-to-peer verbal and written discussions, small group activities, hands-on and inquiry-based activities, experiential learning and field-based explorations. 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 Summer at sswallow@pepperwoodpreserve.org.



Statement on Inclusion and Accommodations

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 Summer at least 30 days 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 upon request. Pace of field explorations will be slow to moderate, including a variety of hands-on activities with frequent opportunities for breaks built in.

Statement on Financial Accessibility Cost

Students are responsible for course fees and the purchase of the California Naturalist Handbook. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel, meals and equipment (rain gear).

Scholarships to reduce the cost of course program fees may be available on a limited basis depending upon need.

