

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
The Language of Nature
2016 Adult Education Program



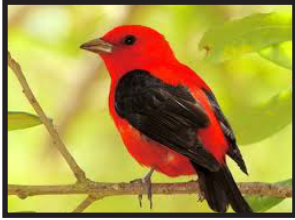
Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science, and Education
31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington NJ 08534

thewatershed.org

The Language of Nature

Course Overview

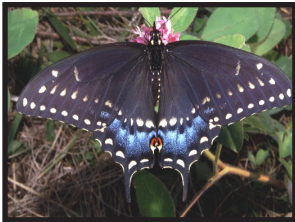
Become A Citizen Naturalist!



Enjoy a walk in the woods? Through meadows and along stream corridors? Think about how much richer that experience can be when you can pick out the song of the Black-Throated Green Warbler. Identify the Shag Bark Hickory and the Spicebush. Recognize the Mourning Cloak. Understand how these birds, trees, plants and insects relate to each other – and to us.



Thousands of people enjoy “getting close to nature.” Thousands support the preservation of natural areas. Yet most of us have had little opportunity to learn much about the wild creatures and plants that surround us. Nature is too often a foreign language.



To deepen our understanding of and appreciation for the nature around us, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, in collaboration with faculty from NJ colleges and universities, is offering a series of courses on “The Language of Nature.”



Each course will consist of 6 week night classes and 3 Saturday morning or afternoon field trips at the the Watershed Center in Hopewell. Field trips will take place at the Watershed Reserve and at other NJ sites. **Enrollment will be limited to 15 per class** to ensure that field trips will not be disruptive. **These programs sold out last year.**

There will be no tests, papers or projects. All that is required is interest and attendance. Students who complete four courses will earn a “Citizen Naturalist” certificate from the Watershed Association and a Watershed fleece vest.

The Language of Nature

Courses

Understanding and Identifying Birds of New Jersey March 17th through April 28th

Topics

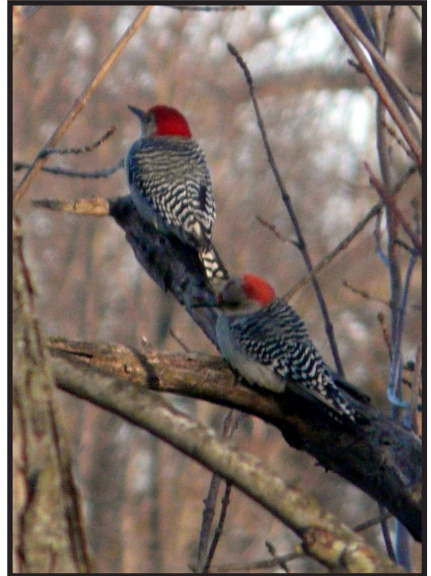
- Evolution and Morphology
- Taxonomy and classification
- Behavior
- Habitats
- Identifying species
- Bird conservation – our lives with birds.

Field sessions: Watershed Reserve, Brigantine, forest/grassland trip.

Faculty: Dr. Luke K. Butler, P.h.D., Associate Professor of Biology, The College of New Jersey.

Luke K. Butler, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Biology at The College of New Jersey. He has studied birds in the field, lab, and museum for twenty years, including research expeditions to Mexico and South Africa.

Dates: Six Thursday evening classes from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and three Saturday field trips of approximately three hours each.



The Language of Nature

Courses

Ecology of New Jersey's Rivers, Streams, Lakes and Ponds May 2nd through June 13th

Topics

- Physical limnology & nutrient cycling
- Aquatic invertebrates
- Freshwater phytoplankton /zooplankton
- Taxonomy and biology of freshwater fishes of New Jersey
- Conservation of New Jersey fishes
- Invasive species

Field sessions: Watershed Reserve, Island Farm Weir fish ladder (Raritan River)

Faculty: Olaf Jensen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University

Olaf Jensen, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University. He holds a Ph.D. in Limnology and Marine Science from the University of Wisconsin and his research focuses on fisheries and aquatic ecosystems, including the study of endangered salmonid in Mongolia.

Dates: Six Monday evening classes from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (skipping Memorial Day) and three Saturday afternoon field trips of approximately three hours each.



The Language of Nature

Courses

Plants and Wildflowers of Woods, Fields and Roadsides

May 3rd through June 7th

Topics

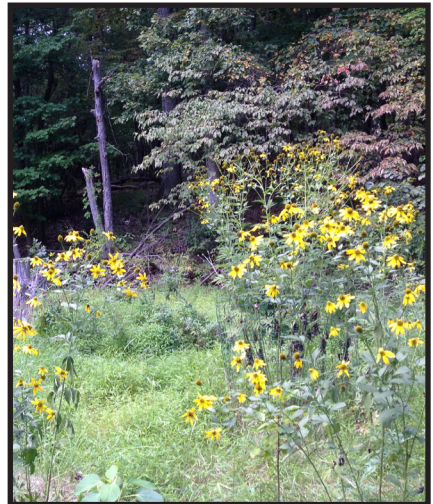
- Plant Evolution and Basic Systematics
- Plant Reproduction
- Morphology and Physiology
- Better Living through Plant Chemistry
- Ecological Interactions
- The Ecology of Invasions

Field sessions: Watershed Reserve, Pine Barrens, Hamilton-Trenton Marsh

Faculty: Laura A. Hyatt, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Rider University

Laura Hyatt, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Biology at Rider University. She holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and her research has focused on population biology and ecology of invasive plant species.

Dates: Six Tuesday evening classes from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and three Saturday morning field trips of approximately three hours each.



The Language of Nature

Courses

The Trees of New Jersey and Their Lives (Woods, Stream Corridors and Parks)

October 4th through November 8th

Topics

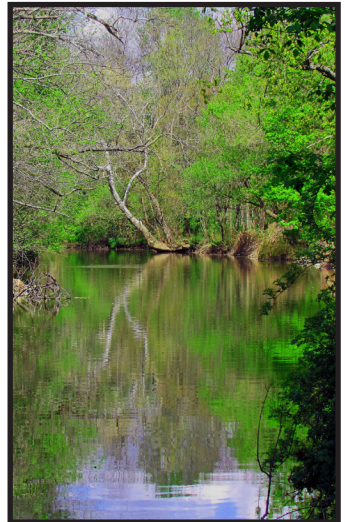
- Tree Identification: Taxonomy & nomenclature
- How Trees Really Grow: Trees as historians
- The Forest Ecosystem: Soils, topography, and drainage
- The Home Ecosystem: Ornamentals
- Tree and Shrub Care in the Home Ecosystem
- Distinctions between a Forest Ecosystem and a Home Ecosystem (and how to create a Forest where you live)

Field sessions: Watershed Reserve, North Jersey Hardwood Forest, and the Pine Barrens

Faculty: Bill Brash, Fellow, Society of American Foresters, retired Director, Mercer County Soil Conservation District

Bill Brash holds a BSF in Forest Management from West Virginia University and a Masters in Environmental Science from Montclair State College. He is a NJ Approved Consulting Forester, a NJ Certified Tree Expert, and a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters.

Dates: Six Tuesday evening classes from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and three Saturday field trips of approximately three hours each.



The Language of Nature Registration

Register online: thewatershed.org/adult-education

Tuition Fees

Register for all four sessions and save \$100!

Become a Member and receive a discounted fee.

Watershed Members:

- 1 session- \$195
- 2 sessions- \$390
- 3 sessions- \$585
- 4 sessions- \$680*

Non-Members:

- 1 session- \$245
- 2 sessions- \$490
- 3 sessions- \$735
- 4 sessions- \$880*

*Includes frequency discount

FAQ's

Q: What is your cancellation policy?

A: Full refund if canceled in writing 30 days prior to session. If canceled within 30 days, and spot is filled, we will refund your fee, less a \$40 processing charge.

Q. Are there any books or equipment required?

A. Courses will likely require purchase of a field guide. Binoculars would be advisable for the Birds of New Jersey course. A limited number will be available on loan from the Watershed. All other equipment and materials will be supplied by the Watershed.

Contact: Maryann Polefka - Education Manager - 609-737-7592

