



**CATALINA ISLAND  
CONSERVANCY™**  
*Conservation. Education. Recreation.*



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources | California Naturalist Program

# 2023 CATALINA CALIFORNIA NATURALIST

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## **Instructors**

Hillary Holt

## **Course Email**

hholt@  
catalinaconservancy.org

## **Virtual Course Schedule**

*February 21<sup>st</sup>- April 18<sup>th</sup>*  
Weekly Tuesday online  
meetings 6:00-8:00pm

## **Online Capstone Project Presentations**

*April 18<sup>th</sup>*

## **Field school on Catalina**

Tuesday-Thursday  
*April 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>*

## **CalNat Website**

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

## **Course Fee**

\$650

## **Course Overview**

The UC California Naturalist Program (CalNat) seeks to foster a committed corps of naturalists and community 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 school and project-based learning to immerse you in the natural world.

The Catalina California Naturalist Course looks to facilitate naturalists continuing education and discovery of southern California's rare, coastal Mediterranean ecosystem highlighted through the lens of island biogeography. This 9-week hybrid course and explores the familiar yet uniquely adapted world of the Channel Islands. Eight weeks are taught virtually through online coursework and weekly Zoom meetings, culminating in a 3-day field school on Catalina Island. Catalina Island Conservancy staff instructs the course in partnership with Catalina Island subject matter guest experts.

## **Learning Outcomes**

- Understand what it means to be a naturalist.
- Integrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of abiotic, biotic and cultural factors and their influence on the natural history of Catalina Island.
- Demonstrate skills in making and recording natural history observations in a field notebook and nature journal.
- Become proficient using iNaturalist to record nature observations
- Apply knowledge of Catalina and southern California to local and global environmental issues.

### Course Materials

Students are responsible for obtaining the required materials

- **Required text:** The California Naturalist Handbook, Greg de Nevers, Deborah Stranger Edelman, Adina Merenlender.
- **Required:** Access to internet connected computer or phone and an email account
- **Required:** Nature Journal, Pencil(s)
- **Recommended:** Colored pencils, Hand lens (10x), Binoculars
- **Provided:** Small field notebook

### Course Requirements

- **Contact Time:** Each UC California Naturalist course consists of a minimum of forty educational hours (coursework and field time), which includes a minimum of 8 hours in the field. Students can anticipate a 4-hour commitment to the course each week. Eight hours of additional time investment required for the capstone project can be logged as volunteer hours in the UC Volunteer Portal upon completion of the course.
- **Required Reading:** Read the entire book "The California Naturalist Handbook", and assigned readings and activities that you will access through the Canvas web board. There will be weekly online quizzes and assignments to assess your completion of these readings and activities.
- **Class Attendance:** Live classes will take place every Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:00pm PST using the Zoom platform. Attendance of at least seven of the nine live classes, will be required for certification.
- **Coursework and quizzes:** Students will need to complete all the online quizzes and assignments by their due dates. All course materials can be accessed through the Canvas web board. All material will be available at the outset of the course and students will be able to work ahead of schedule if there will be weeks with known conflicts.
- **Field School:** A three-day, two-night field school will run Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup>- Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The accommodations will be shared tent cabins at Hermit Gulch Campground and shared dorms at the USC Wrigley Institute of Environmental Studies in Two Harbors. Students will need to provide their own sleeping bag and minimal meals. Students are welcome to book alternative lodging in Avalon the first night at their own expense but will need stay with class at the dorms the second night.

- **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 with a local conservation organization. The Conservancy will have limited opportunities to mentor capstone projects and will provide a list of suggested projects that would be helpful for the 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 via Zoom (5-10 minutes long per person) during the final virtual class. A minimum of 8 hours is required on the capstone project and can be added as volunteer hours into the volunteer portal.
- **Using a Field Notebook and Journal:** All participants are required to keep a nature journal (a place to thoughtfully transcribe your experiences) during the course. A field notebook (a place to jot quick notes) is encouraged to assist with your nature journaling but is not required. Students will designate a “sit-spot,” a location in proximity to your dwelling to spend time recording observations in or near nature for a minimum of 30 min each week, alternately utilizing prompts provided by the instructor and using the time to record freely.
- **Introduction to Nature Journaling:** An introductory workshop with John Muir Laws. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nndw2HQ7uA>
- **iNaturalist** Each participant will be responsible for registering for an iNaturalist account (<http://www.inaturalist.org/>) and adding at least three observation(s) to the course iNaturalist project. Search projects: *CatCalNat*. Students will be asked to share their iNaturalist usernames with the class.
- **Class Community Science Project:** Each participant must contribute to the community science project adopted by the class. We will be participating in the City Nature Challenge using iNaturalist (<https://citynaturechallenge.org>), a BioBlitz organized by the LA Naturalist History Museum and the California Academy of Sciences. We will conduct the BioBlitz together on Catalina during the On-Island field school.
- **CalNat Volunteer Portal:** Participants will be enrolled in the Volunteer Portal to track your volunteer hours. Your first 8 volunteer hours will be the work you put into your capstone project. Contribute 40 hours/year and receive the annual California Naturalist pin.

**Online Class Schedule**

Every Tuesday 02/21/2023-05/02/2023 from 6:00-8:00pm

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Class Date</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Course Topic</b>	<b>Guest Speaker</b>	<b>Reading/ Quiz</b>
1	02/21/2023	Online	Introduction and overview Land acknowledgement	Cal Nat Staff Tongva tribal members	Ch. 1 & 8 Introduction
2	02/28/2023	Online	Geology		Ch. 2 Geology
3	03/07/2023	Online	Water		Ch. 3 Water
4	03/14/2023	Online	Endemic Plants of Catalina/Plant Adaptations/Fire Ecology	Kevin Alison Conservancy Botanist	Ch. 4 Plants
5	03/21/2023	Online	Plants Forest Resources/Oak woodlands/Non-Native Herbivores/Invasive plants	Lauren Dennhardt Conservancy Conservation Director	Ch. 5 Forest, Woodland, and Range Resources and Management
6	03/28/2023	Online	Wildlife/ Evolution/Population Dynamics/Island Biogeography	Emily Hamblen Conservancy Wildlife Biologist	Ch. 6 Wildlife
7	04/04/2023	Online	Energy and Global Environmental Issues	Victoria Petryshyn USC Professor	Ch.7 Energy and Global and Environmental Issues
8	04/18/2022	Online	Capstone Presentations	Presentation schedule will be from 3:00-8:00pm.	Attendance for all presentations will not be required.

**On Island Field School**

Three-day two-night field school- Detailed itinerary and what to bring provided separately

<b>Day</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Instructors</b>	<b>Travel and Accommodation</b>
<b>Day 1</b> Wednesday 04/25/2023	Avalon Airport in the Sky Little Harbor	Interpretation Nature Journaling iNaturalist	Conservancy Education Staff Tongva Tribal members	Arrive on Island Accommodations: Shared tent cabins at Hermit Gulch in Avalon
<b>Day 2</b> Thursday 04/26/2023	Middle Ranch and other interior locations	Native Plants Wildlife Invasives Water	Conservancy Conservation Staff	Accommodations: Shared apartments at USC in Two Harbors
<b>Day 3</b> Friday 04/27/2023	USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies	Ocean literacy and marine protected areas	USC Marine Science Staff	Depart Island

**Guest Speakers:**

Eliot Freutal- UCANR California Naturalist Program Community Education Specialist

Cindi Alvitre- Professor of American Indian studies CSULB, Co-founder Ti'at Society, PCIAP

Desiree Martinez- President of Cogstone Resource Management, Inc., PCIAP

Karimah Kennedy-Richardson- Associate Curator of Archaeology and Osteology Southwest Museum of American Indian Collection, PCIAP

Wendy Teeter- Archeologist, UCLA Fowler Museum, PCIAP

Kevin Alison-Conservancy Native Plant Manager

Lauren Dennhardt- Conservancy Invasive Plant Manager

Emily Hamblen- Conservancy Wildlife Biologist

Victoria Petryshyn- USC Faculty in Environmental studies

Linda Chilton- Education Program Coordinator, USC Sea Grant Program

**Evaluation**

Complete the online post-course evaluation survey. You will be provided a link to the evaluation survey toward the end of the course.

**Volunteering and the Volunteer Portal**

Volunteering: Participants need to complete at least forty (40) hours of volunteer service each year to maintain their certification. Pins are awarded 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.
- All volunteering with the Conservancy goes toward your California Naturalist volunteer hours.
- Your 8-hour capstone project will count toward your first year's volunteer hours. You will log these hours into the [UC Volunteer Portal](#). You will receive a welcome e-mail after completion of the course and upon certification as a California Naturalist.

**Cancellation Policy**

If unable to complete the current course registered for, then you will be eligible to enroll in the next scheduled course without additional fees. If the Conservancy cancels a class for any reason all enrollees will receive a full refund. Refunds may require four weeks for processing.

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, which occurs before the halfway point of the course, 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.

**Course Credit**

Upon completing certification requirements, participants are eligible for four academic credits through [UC Davis Extension](#) 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.

**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 Hillary Holt in writing of your accommodation needs. Please notify at least 30 days prior to the first class if you require any special accommodations. This will allow us a chance 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, purchasing books, and transportation for the field trips. Students are also responsible for costs associated with any travel or meals.

If you are a Conservancy Staff member or Volunteer, please contact your department to find out about funding opportunities.