

Wild Wonder Conference

Virtual sessions at Glen Lake Community Library

Saturday, September 21, 2024

10:15-11:15 In-person: Nature Journaling Introduction and technique demonstration with Sleeping Bear Nature Journalers, Penny Krebiehl and others

What is Nature Journaling? It's less of a personal diary and more a recording of responses to and learning about the natural world we are a part of, that can take us out of our head and daily to-do lists into the living world all around us. In our small group gatherings the emphasis and practice is on the real time experience and adventure of observing and recording in our backyard and wild places/parks/trails etc. Unless we keep a journal of observations, many of our discoveries will fade from memory and be lost. We don't worry about the formality of our nature journals and although we may be interested as citizen scientists, it doesn't need to live up to scientific standards. We sketch as much as possible (taking photos occasionally) which forces us to look closely for details and improve our skills as an observer. The connection to place and what lives with and alongside us is a beautiful way to increase our how-to-skills and awareness of being caretakers of the Earth, and can be so nourishing and meaningful. Penny and others will be invited to share some of their previous journal pages and will give a brief demo on sketching on sight, inking in a few details and using watercolor palettes and watercolor pencils.

11:30-12:55 Lush Beauty of Garden Blooms in Watercolor with Sushma Hegde

Join Sushma, bestselling author of *Wildflower Watercolor: The Beginner's Guide to Painting Beautiful Florals*, for a fun and approachable class on capturing the vibrancy and charm of garden blooms. Learn to paint geraniums, nasturtiums, and more in a loose, expressive style with watercolors, without the need for pencil sketching first. This approach encourages spontaneity and creativity, helping you let go of perfectionism and enjoy the process of creating.

1:15-2:40 Video Class: Colors of the 8-Legged (As in Insects!) with Verena Hillgartner

The arachnids of this world await us with an unexpected blaze of color, and we are about to explore them! In this workshop, we use the world of colors as a gateway to the sometimes not-so-popular 8-legged little crawlers around us. First, we will make a little miniature journal-zine for our pockets. Then we dive into a little "zoom-in" adventure and collect the wonderful colors in the zine (similar to the "Nature Spots" by Lisa Spangler / @sideoats) and follow up by assigning the colors to the 8-legged creatures. In a playful way, fear is replaced by curiosity and amazement and a renewed fascination for the little crawlers around us is awakened.

2:45-3:40 In-person or video: Journal Sharing via Zoom? OR for those in attendance, we will share amongst ourselves and have a Habitat/Landscape sketching + watercolor painting session in our Library Garden.

Grab a cup of tea/snack and head over to the "Pencil Miles & Chill" Zoom room where folks can hang out, chat, share pages, and swap stories. Casual and fun. Set your Zoom view to the Gallery

to see who's there! The moderators can also help you find breakout rooms for smaller gatherings, some of which will be hosted by instructors.

4:00 - 5:25 Video Class: Puffin Party with John Muir Laws

Join John Muir Laws for a fun and informative class on how to sketch and paint this spectacular seabird in your nature journal. Learn to wrap your brain around these adorable, flying footballs! Plus, Jack will help you simplify their shapes to basic contours, enabling you to draw them at any angle (and including all the fish they have stuffed in their beak!). Bonus: The class will include a Puffin Party Dance Break! After this class, you'll be ready to sketch along with our Puffin keynote speakers later in the conference (puffin conservationists Steve Kress and Derrick Jackson, followed by a virtual studio tour of artist Susan Schubel who creates puffin decoys for conservation projects).