Course instructors

- Paige DeCino, Preserve Calavera
- Karen Merrill, Preserve Calavera
- Isabelle Kay, UCSD Natural Reserve System
- Rocco Valluzzi (Teaching assistant)

Bios of instructors and guest speakers are in the Portal
• What is the UC California Naturalist Program?
• Accomplishments to date
• Course Elements
• Continuing Education & Opportunities
• Building a community of practice
California’s diversity & challenges

California is one of the most diverse places on Earth

- 30,000 species of insects
- 63 of freshwater fish
- 46 amphibians
- 96 reptiles
- 563 birds
- 190 mammals
- more than 8,000 plants
- Many are endemic to CA
We cannot protect and restore California’s unique ecology without an environmentally literate, engaged public

JOIN OUR NEW COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

MUST HAVE

• Environmental literacy
• Scientific and social understanding
• Interpretive skills
• Involved in collaborative conservation
Becoming a naturalist offers a chance to explore nature and deepen your understanding of how nature works.
The mission of the California Naturalist Program is to foster a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of California's natural resources through education and service.
What do naturalists do?

- Spend time outside observing nature
- Draw/photograph nature
- Take notes
- Identify and collect
- Help steward the land
- Interpret nature
- Participate in citizen science
- Promote conservation
- Support science & education institutions
- Have fun!
Connecting Multiple Audiences

Traditional Audiences

Non-Traditional Audiences

Mutual Learning Exchange

Retired volunteer with California Audubon – California Christmas Bird Count

Bridge to Parks Careers graduates from LA's Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
To Date:
Over 4000 Certified California Naturalists and Naturalists-in-Training have logged 200,000+ volunteer hours
Every Certified CA Naturalist completes...

- Reading & Homework
- ≥40 hours in class and field
- Journaling
- iNaturalist observation
- Citizen Science Project
- Capstone Project
- Course Evaluation
- Volunteering (volunteer portal)
- UCD Extension Credits
Reading, Homework, Journaling
What is iNaturalist

- Social network launched in 2011 to store, share, and georeference photographic species observations
- 88,000,000 observations worldwide with almost 2 million observers
- Research Grade Observations

Filling critical data gaps for understanding and managing biodiversity in the face of climate change and other stressors!

iNaturalist.org encourages the participation of a wide variety of nature enthusiasts, includingikers, birders, park rangers, mushroom foragers, and ecologists.

Through connecting these different perceptions and expertise, iNaturalist hopes to create extensive community awareness of local biodiversity and promote further exploration of the natural world.
iNaturalist.org Features at a Glance

- Add a species observation
- **Tools for identifying & verifying species**
- Search for species by region or land parcel
- Join projects

- Species classification & description resources
- View species distribution ranges
Plants & Animals in Coastal North San Diego County

Add app to phone or go to website: www.inaturalist.org

Adding our project

• On computer search under
  • Community → projects to join our project
• On phone see Project at bottom of observation form:
Citizen/Community/Participatory Science describes projects involving the public in making observations, and collecting and recording data for scientific research and monitoring.

- People are already observing nature during the course of their recreation hours-why not make good use of those observations?
- Lends science more “eyes and ears” in the field
- Gives people a chance to genuinely learn how to do science
Class Citizen Science Project
Citizen Science Projects

• Class adopts a project

• CalNat Portal to Citizen Science Projects
Capstone Projects

✓ Stewardship
✓ Education/Interpretation
✓ Citizen Science
✓ Program Support
✓ Environmental & Climate Justice
✓ Community Resilience & Adaptation
What is a Capstone Project?

- A service project must be of use to the partner organization
- Fosters transition to certified naturalist
- 8-10 hrs; must be logged on VMS

✓ Stewardship
✓ Education/Interpretation
✓ Citizen Science
✓ Program Support
✓ Environmental & Climate Justice
✓ Community Resilience & Adaptation
Capstone Project Examples

- Nature center learning display
- Brochure
- Nature Guide instructional materials
- Native plant plaques

The mission of Preserve Calavera is to protect, enhance, and restore the natural resources of coastal north San Diego County.
Volunteering & Volunteer Portal
The goal of volunteer service is to contribute to local communities by improving natural areas and educating people about California’s natural environment.

- Stewardship
- Education/Interpretation
- Citizen Science
- Program Support
- Environmental & climate justice
- Community resilience & adaptation
VMS: The New Look

Main menu listing

Volunteer Portal

Search, Notifications, Help and link to your Profile

Your program

News feed

Summary of your hours and events

Your Calendar

Volunteer Hours
This Year 8
Lifetime 17

Event
Date
Final Class (Spring 2016) Tue, Jun 07, 2016
Capstone Presentations
Capitol Park BioBlitz Tue, Apr 12, 2016

View All Events
Annual Volunteer Incentive Pin

Earn new pins with 40 hours per year!

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Evaluation

- NSF evaluation team
- We evaluate (Post):
  - About You
  - About the Course
  - Change in Knowledge
  - Attitude on science and environment issues

96% plan to volunteer
Receive college credit for becoming a certified California Naturalist!

Certified California Naturalists may opt to receive four academic units through UC Davis Extension for $80

Here’s how it works:

- Credits are 4 lower division, general ed quarter units (4 quarter = 2.67 semester units). Pass/Fail option only. No letter grades can be issued.
- If you intend to use credits toward a degree, please pre-verify UC Davis Extension Credits will be accepted and transferred by the institution/program of your choice! Refunds cannot be issued.
- Let your California Naturalist course instructor know that you are interested in credit during your first week of class.
- Upon completing course requirements and becoming certified, the California Naturalist Program will forward your info to UC Davis Extension within a week of your graduation.
- Please wait for an e-mail from California Naturalist stating we’ve sent your info. Then call UC Davis Extension directly and sign up within four months of graduation to receive units. You are under no obligation to follow through if you expressed initial interest, and you will not be reminded.
- If you need an official transcript it is $15 extra.
- Students that became certified at a community college are not eligible for the UC Davis Extension Credits.


Questions? Contact canaturalist@ucanr.edu • 707.744.1424 x104
Various topics like “Celebrating CA’s Biodiversity”, “Bumble Bee Atlas Project”...
Save the Date!

“Wildfire and its effects on Sierran mixed conifer forests:
A California Naturalist advanced training”

April 25 & 26, 2015

UC Berkeley’s Blodgett Forest Research Station, Georgetown, CA

Join University of California scientists as we examine the characteristics of wildfire and its impacts on the forests of the Sierra Nevada. We will look at land management practices used to affect fire behavior and how the landscape recovers from fire. We will take a field trip to the 2014 King fire area to see effects of high severity fire on forest regeneration and wildlife. The training will include nature journaling and an art session.

Participants will stay overnight at Blodgett and meals will be provided. More information about logistics and cost will be provided in early 2015. Registration will be required and participation is limited to 30.

For more information, please contact Kim Ingram at kcingram@ucanr.edu