

James L. Goodwin Conservation Center's

Master Naturalist Program

The mission of the James L. Goodwin Conservation Center's Master Naturalist program is to develop a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of Connecticut's natural resources through education and service.

Are you interested in learning more about the habitats, plants, animals and natural history of Connecticut? Are you a landowner, citizen, teacher, park naturalist, land trust employee, conservation planning board member or natural resource professional looking to increase your knowledge of the natural environment? If so, join us for our 2014 Master Naturalist Training.

Through this program, participants will learn about the ecosystems of Connecticut, the animals and plants that inhabit our area, and current conservation issues affecting our wildlife and natural resources. The program includes a mix of indoor classroom presentations and outdoor hands-on field sessions where participants learn to identify, interpret, and understand key ecological processes.

Participants completing the Level I course will become "Apprentice Naturalists", and no further training is required. Individuals interested in becoming a "Master Naturalist" may go on to complete the Level II course.

How do I become a Master Naturalist?

Visit our website: www.ct.gov/DEEP/Goodwin or FriendsofGoodwinForest.org to read all the details and download the application. The course is offered from April to October.

What does it cost to be a Master Naturalist?

The Level I training is \$150.00 ; Level II training , \$125.00. Partial scholarships available.

Refund policy If a participant withdraws before the first class, the refund is tuition minus \$20; after one class, the refund is half of tuition; thereafter, no refund will be issued

Describe the training program.

Basic training consists of a minimum of 35 hours of instruction composed of classroom sessions and field trips. Level I training involves Goodwin Staff and local experts. Level II involves experts from the natural resource community as well as university professors, state and federal agency biologists and specialists and nature center staff members to serve as instructors. After the formal instruction participants attend educational series, field trips throughout the summer and complete 25 hours of outreach at the Center.

The James L. Goodwin Conservation Center's Master Naturalist Program is the work and passion of a team led by Juan Sanchez.

Juan Sanchez received a Masters in Science and Natural history with his Teaching certification from UCONN. His education experience spans 4 decades, from 36 years in the Manchester CT public schools, to adjunct professor at CCSU, University of Hartford, Moscow Institute of Science, SCSU, Quinnipiac University, and ESCU. His field work and research are equally as impressive spanning the hemisphere from the Amazon basin to study Black Caimans to inventorying lichens in Newfoundland and Ontario. He is a board member of the CT Bird Conservation Research and CT Botanical Society, and a member of the CT Entomological Society and CT Science Teachers Assoc. Juan recently left his position as the naturalist at the Goodwin Center and is currently conducting a vernal pool analysis and Atlantic White Cedar Bog vegetation inventory for Joshua's trust.

Emma Lorusso received a degree in Natural Resources with a concentration in Forestry and Sustainability from the UMASS Amherst. Before becoming the Naturalist at the Goodwin Center she worked in New Mexico as a Wildland Firefighter, and was part of a water conservation project in Tamil Nadu, India. Emma feels strongly about volunteering in her community giving time in many informal education settings, including community gardens at schools, and teaching at a Day Camp.

We are pleased to offer this 'first ever' training which is made possible by our supporting partners: CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the Friends of Goodwin Forest and CT Forest and Park Association.

