

FortWhyte U

Spring/Summer Semester 2009/2010

No matter what your volunteer role at FortWhyte Alive, you will find the list of “lectures” listed below hard to resist. Reaching for your personal or professional development is as easy as dialing **989-8368** to register for topics ranging from natural and social history, environmental issues, farming and gardening, voice development, bird research and exhibit crafting. University has never been so accessible! **FortWhyte U just for YOU!**

Program/Role Specific Training is listed on the reverse side of this page. The Education Team has developed new school programs for the spring menu: *From Farm to Fork(Gr.2-3)*, *A World of Difference(Gr.6)*, *Ever-changing Ecology: Succession Science(Gr.7)*. Register for the training to learn more about them. Spring is a good time to spread your wings!

Lecture Series

Intro to FortWhyte Farms on Wednesday, April 7, 10:00-10:30 – Ian Barnett, our Social Enterprise Programs Manager, will share an overview of FortWhyte’s unique social enterprise farm model, a story of sustainability from two perspectives: growing marginalized youth and urban agricultural projects, including an apiary, cold climate greenhouse, 2-acre vegetable garden, orchard, and animal husbandry (pastured poultry and pigs). Plus . . .

Beekeeping 101 on Wednesday, April 7, 10:30-12:30 – Bees are a lynch-pin in the agricultural system, providing not just honey, but vital pollination to all manner of crops. Learn the basics of keeping bees by looking closely at bee biology and behaviour, exploring a year in the life of a beekeeper (our own Ian Barnett!), learn about beekeeping equipment and honey extraction, and discuss the stresses on honey bees that are leading to massive losses of colonies.

Bringing Biodiversity Home on Wednesday, April 7, 1:30-3:00 – We are calling all homeowners to this session led by Mélanie Cotélesage, who will share secrets on creating a “bed and breakfast” for species in your backyard and why that is important! Humans depend on many different species for survival. Learn more about the FortWhyte Naturescape Program designed to inspire and assist people in improving biodiversity. Individual actions create a ripple that goes beyond your fence line.

Meet Mr. William Whyte! on Friday, April 9, 10:00-11:30 – Enter a time capsule and come meet Ed Humphrey, costumed as the infamous William Whyte, top CPR official, circa 1888. Mr. Whyte will entertain and inform you on the historical background of the name Fort Whyte and how the name was coined based on an “almost” battle. The railway wars at the turn of the century will add context to this colourful story that deserves to be shared with all FortWhyte visitors.

Bird Atlassing Launch: Citizen Scientist Workshops on Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11. Learn more about the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas project, a comprehensive bird monitoring program, by joining in on special presentations and workshops. Here is your chance to become a “citizen scientist”. You can pick up the know-how and then join in the project by choosing a specific observation area. No pre-registration for these weekend workshops is necessary!

Choice #1:

Atlassing Presentation on Saturday, April 10, 10:00-11:00 outlines breeding bird atlases, their history and purpose and how to get involved as a citizen scientist. Robert Taylor, renowned Manitoba photographer, will share his naturalist stories and photography that showcase beautiful Manitoba, starting at 11:00.

Atlassing Workshop on Saturday, April 10, 2:00-3:00 gives directives on how to atlas for birds. Bring your binoculars and a clipboard!

GPS Workshop on Saturday, April 10, 3:00-4:00 trains you on how to use hand-held GPS units for recording the location of birds.

Choice #2:

Atlassing Presentation on Sunday, April 11, 10:30-11:30 outlines breeding bird atlases, their history and purpose and how to get involved as a citizen scientist.

Atlassing Workshop on Sunday, April 11, 2:00-3:00 gives directives on how to atlas for birds. Bring your binoculars and a clipboard!

GPS Workshop on Saturday, April 10, 3:00-4:00 trains you on how to use hand-held GPS units for recording the location of birds.

Wetlands: Plentiful, Precious & Precarious on Wednesday, April 14, 10:00-12:00 – Back by popular demand, Dr. Gordon Goldsborough, U of M Associate Professor in Biological Sciences, will take you into the world of wetland habitat: how many we have across the prairies (plentiful), their important

ecological roles (precious), and how they are threatened by human activities (precarious). He brings the world of science to us in layperson's language.

Voice Coaching 101 on Wednesday, April 14, 1:00-2:00 – Calling all Program Leaders! Your voice is an instrument for communication. Ever wonder how you can improve its effectiveness? Heather Rocana will introduce you to projection and articulation exercises that will set you on the road to maintaining your speaking voice. She has been with Toastmasters for 5 years and runs a business called *Professionally Speaking*.

Secrets of a Diorama Artist on Friday, April 16, 10:00-11:30 – Betsy Thorsteinson, Diorama Artist at the Manitoba Museum for 31 years, will share the secrets of her work described as “art being used for science”. FortWhyte Alive boasts one of her artistic creations, the miniature Prairie Soils diorama, depicting in three-dimensional detail the evolution of the western plains. Come learn the behind-the-scenes story of this popular FWA exhibit and others over Betsy's career.

Lake of the Woods: Will it go the way of Lake Winnipeg? on Saturday, April 17, 2:00 – If you share the passion about this body of water, come discover more about its water quality issues from Todd Sellers, Executive Director of the Lake of the Woods Sustainability Foundation.

Birding for Beginners on Sunday, April 18, 1:00-2:00 – Join in this Naturescape program if you're curious about birding but don't know where to start. FortWhyte Volunteer, Laurel McDonald, will guide you through the basics of birding and give tips on feeding to entice backyard birds. Plus . . .

There's a What up my Chimney? on Sunday, April 18, 2:30 – The chimney swift is now a threatened species in Canada. Learn about this unique bird, the challenges it faces due to changes in chimney design and the efforts some Manitobans are taking to halt its decline. Laurel has played a first-hand role in this conservation effort.

Fur Trade Circa 1800's on Wednesday, April 28, 10:00-11:30 – History buffs rejoice! Dr. Jennifer Brown, the Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Peoples and Histories from U of W, will present us with an overview of the aboriginal peoples in the Red River area around 1800. We will look at the who's-who of the fur trade during this era and clarify the roles played by European, Aboriginal and Métis people. No discussion of the fur trade is complete without a discussion of the competition between the HBC and Northwest Company.

Program/Role Specific Training

Interpretive Centre

Monday, April 5	Nature Alive (Gr.K-1)	1:00pm – 3:00pm
Tuesday, April 6	Cattails & Coots (Gr.2-3)	10:00am – 12:15pm
	LUNCH	
	NEW! From Farm to Fork (Gr.2-3)	1:00pm – 3:30pm
Thursday, April 8	Adapt or Die (Gr.4)	10:00am – 12:15pm
	NEW! A World of Difference (Gr.6)	1:00pm – 3:30pm
Tuesday, April 13	People of the Prairies (Gr.4-6)	10:00am – 12:30pm
	LUNCH	
	Weathering the Climate (Gr.5)	1:15pm – 3:30pm
Thursday, April 15	NEW! Ever-changing Ecology (Gr.7)	10:00am – 12:30pm
	Blue Planet (Gr.8)	1:15pm – 3:30pm

Outdoor Adventure Site

Tuesday, April 27	Le Voyageur (Gr.5-8)	10:00am – 12:00pm
	Blazing your Trail	12:30pm – 2:30pm

Other training

Saturday, May 15	Info Desk Seasonal Update	10:30am – 12:30pm
	North Trail & South Trail Walks	1:15pm – 4:00pm
	Biodiversity Hike	1:00pm – 2:30pm
Tuesday, May 18	Natural Leader Part 1	7:00pm – 9:30pm
Wednesday, May 19	Natural Leader Part 2	7:00pm – 9:00pm

