



SISKIYOU FIELD INSTITUTE

DARLINGTONIA

Savoring Summer, Looking Toward Fall

We're weathering the dog days of summer here at SFI – we've been infinitely grateful for a relative lack of smoke in the Illinois Valley this August, and to the students who've joined us for outdoor adventures despite the heat!

This month, students hiked to Bigelow Lake through swathes of still-blooming wildflowers thanks to the site's higher elevation. Along the way, they learned about Siskiyou geology and its effect on the landscape. Other students enjoyed a thorough crash course in backpacking and leave-no-trace skills in SFI's family "Backpacking Basics" class.

The inaugural run of this new course served an enthusiastic group of campers, some more experienced, and some brand-new. After introduction to a classroom's worth of gear, demonstrations and practice of backcountry skills, and a teachable moment encountering an adult rattlesnake (both humans and snake left unharmed), the course culminated in an overnight camping trip on SFI's property beneath dazzling starry skies. Student Ruth left saying "I was fascinated with the instructor Larry Basch for all his experience and knowledge, and I learned so much about backpacking and maximizing safety."





SFI students soaking up knowledge in the field during "Dikes & Siskiyou Geology" and "Backpacking, Outdoor Skills, & LNT Basics."

As always during the busy summer season, time is speeding by and August's long days will be rolling into cooler fall nights before we know it. Fall is a transitional season full of interesting changes and unique displays in nature – make the most of it! We have a ton of field courses coming up to spark your curiosity and get you exploring the never-ending natural diversity that the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion is famous for. Head to the end of this newsletter to [check out what's on the schedule](#).

FREE Night Sky Program at SFI



Coming up this week, SFI is hosting a very cool night sky program with our partners at Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve! Hear "**The Stories of the Stars**" with Ranger Saddle and Ranger CJ, **Friday September 2nd, 8:30-9:30 PM at SFI**. Bring the family and learn about the tales behind the constellations and zodiac signs, and explore their beauty in dark skies away from city lights. This program is FREE and welcome to all ages! [Follow the event on Facebook](#) for the latest updates.

Please Bring: Lawn Chair or Blanket to lay on, Warm Clothes, Water, Curiosity, & Flashlight

A Note from the Executive Director



With a little over three months under my belt here at SFI, I have had the opportunity to meet so many important staff, volunteers, board members, neighbors and visitors. Hearing time and time again the stories about the impact this organization has had on people and the surrounding community has been inspiring to say the least. I feel humbled and honored to be a part of an organization providing space for people to come together.

At the heart of our mission here at SFI is increasing connection to the greater Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion. As we seek to deepen our impact we want to hear from our community about how we've been doing and how we can be better. To that end, we're asking you to take a moment to complete this [one-page community survey](#). Your feedback will be incorporated into future courses, programs and initiatives. Please take just a moment with this simple show of support for our work.

You can fill it out anonymously if you so choose, however, if you tell us your name you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card at [Udders Ice Cream](#) in Grants Pass! Click on the link below to get started.

[Take the Community Survey](#)



Upcoming Events



All ages are invited to share the stories of the stars with Ranger Saddle and Ranger C.J. Come learn about the tales behind the constellations and zodiac signs, and explore their beauty in dark skies. This program is FREE and family-friendly!

Free Night Sky Program

September 2nd, 8:30-9:30 PM

*Presented in partnership with
the Oregon Caves National
Monument & Preserve*

[See Updates on Facebook](#)

Please Bring: Lawn Chair or Blanket to lay on,
Warm Clothes, Water, Curiosity, & Flashlight



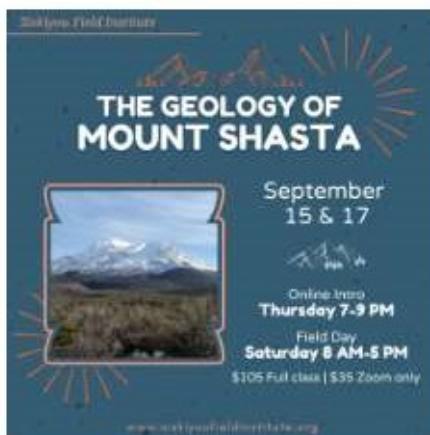
September 9th-11th

6 PM Friday - 3 PM Sunday

[A Marine Biology Experience](#)

Explore marine biodiversity in the field, offshore on a research vessel, and up close in the laboratory. We'll meet benthic and planktonic marine organisms, on- and off-shore birds, as well as cool marine mammals, employing scientific tools to get to know them better. We'll also learn about ecological and oceanographic processes influencing the diversity, form, function, interactions, and survival of marine species. And how are marine resources utilized by coastal peoples and wildlife? Come find out in this immersive, in-depth experience at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology.

With Larry Basch.



Sept. 15th, 7-9 PM (online)

Sept. 17th, 8 AM-5 PM (field)

[Mt. Shasta Geology](#)

Mount Shasta is one of the largest of the High Cascade volcanoes. With an eruptive history spanning 700,000 years, its potential for future eruptive and debris flow events remains high. This course will introduce the tectonic setting, eruptive history, and potential hazards of Mount Shasta as well as explore the ancient basement rocks that may underlie it and influence the chemistry of its lavas.

With Bill Hirt.



Gain an introduction to the system of farming/gardening developed by Master Han-Kyu Cho of South Korea. This system utilizes the revitalization and reintroduction of indigenous microorganisms into the soil, as



Sept. 24th, 12:30-3:30 PM

Intro to KNF

well as inexpensive, made-on-site liquid fertilizers that can be applied directly to the soil, or used as a foliar spray. After presentation and discussion in the classroom, we'll head outside for a hands-on demonstration of the process used to collect indigenous microorganisms from your environment.

With Jason Riessland.



October 1st, 10 AM-2 PM

Botanical Ink

Write, sketch, and paint with materials your hands have crafted from nature's abundance! Smoosh and simmer plant parts into exquisite colors – we'll make gorgeous black ink from oak galls, rich brown ink from black walnut hulls, and one other locally harvested color. You'll also get to play with many other colors of handcrafted inks. Finally we'll experiment with various tools for using your inks, including handmade twig and feather dip pens.

With Lauren Kemple.

Found In The Field

