

For many years The Nature Institute has offered courses on *Coming Alive to Nature*. Here's what some of the participants have said about them.

“This course has completely transformed my methods and intention in teaching... The ability to share this experience of learning and growing with peers and educators of all backgrounds and experience levels has been invaluable.” (*High School Teacher*)

“The teaching, listening, and conversing were all at an illuminating level... I liked the balance of alternating between light and color phenomena and precise yet extended observations of the plants, followed by dialogue and literary context from Buber & Goethe. This way of being is life-changing for me, and I hope my students learn to hear the mute world singing too!” (*Sustainability Faculty Fellow at U.S. University*)

“I love every activity you gave me. It was really eye-opening. The experiments about life were extraordinary. You use very simple techniques but show a lot.” (*Biochemist and Graduate Student in Contemplative Education from Thailand*)

“From a young age, I wanted to study zoology, botany, biology. And then going through the mainstream schooling system I was disillusioned by formal education in general. This was the first time that I can remember being so vividly interested and fascinated in a ‘classroom setting.’ Good teachers are everything. Your classes have inspired me to, in some way, pursue some sort of education in these fields of science...” (*Dairy Farm Apprentice*)

“It felt wonderful to stop, slow down – an amazing reminder on staying alive, open, and fresh as a human being and teacher.” (*Early Childhood Educator*)

“This past week has been incredibly stimulating and inspiring... I enjoyed the variety of activities and relationship between theoretical, philosophical, spiritual, scientific, and real-life connections. I feel like the week was broken up well, with enough time dedicated to fully explore each element...” (*Organic Farmer*)

“Spectacular! It was great the mix of the different content areas and schedule for the whole day and week. Starting the day with some geometry picturing exercises, and then [the way] those led to paradigm breaking revelations was amazing. I love that shift of inner work supported by geometry.” (*Regenerative Design Expert from Peru*)

“I felt this week will shine through to those around me, and teach (or help to teach) ‘environmentalism’ in a more profound way than anything I could have imagined before coming into this course. This week and its lessons solidified the fact that mere language falls short of the quiet contemplative moments that are constantly reaching out to us...” (*Former Field Instructor, the Northwest Outdoor Science School in Oregon*)

“I’m not a high school teacher, but I work a bit with teenagers, and I can feel how important it is for them when I can know and have enthusiasm for the things of the world. And this process of

coming to know seems to bring enthusiasm, even alongside real sober dedication to the work...”
(Poet and Teacher of Nature Writing)

“I thought the format of the day was well timed and organized. It was nice to have two breaks and a long lunch period to get to know others. The course provided me with the opportunity or potential to observe my surrounding environment with a new perspective of the four elements. These fresh, or renewed, eyes-or-senses will guide my teaching in the spring.” *(Agricultural Arts Teacher)*

“I thought the course was thought-provoking, engaging, intimate, and fun. I thought that it was structured brilliantly. An overarching theme of plants and the soil, and weaving in the elements and this aspect of quality, allowed for new insights, perspectives, and questions to bubble up... This was quite a unique educational experience and I would love to come back for more.”
(Farmer & Social Therapist)

“I really enjoyed the course and feel that I drew a great deal from it. Just the ability to have an entire week devoted to thinking about natural systems was helpful in and of itself. We all contend with being pulled in many different directions throughout our usual daily lives, and so it was a real gift to have this period of sustained concentration.” *(Cook, Landscape Designer and Gardener)*