

PRACTICING AWARENESS IN NATURE: Metaphor and Observation as Spiritual Practices

Jennie Isbell and Newell Pledger-Shinn

Thursday September 29—Sunday October 2, 2011



AUTUMN GATHERING

ONE OF OUR FOUR
SEASON RETREAT SERIES

*Program cost of \$295
includes program, meals
and accommodation*

*Thursday dinner
through Sunday lunch.*

*Scholarships are
available - please ask!*

*For registration info:
www.woolmanhill.org
or 413-774-3431.*

WOOLMAN HILL
Quaker Retreat Center
107 Keets Road
Deerfield MA 01342
413-774-3431
www.woolmanhill.org
info@woolmanhill.org

Participants in this weekend will be invited to consider experiences of divine presence from the inside out, with attention to how our understandings about God are shaped and influenced by the natural world. We will spend some time in nature, prayerfully opening to the questions of our lives to look for the lessons and insights God offers in nature. We will learn the names of things, with attention to a few particular fellow creations. We will also play with language, in story or poem, to allow images of nature to illuminate our stories. Participants may wish to bring walking shoes, sketch books, journals and cameras. In addition to sessions on species identification and time outdoors, the schedule will include practices to bring you into your body and senses, time for reflection on your own, small group and whole group sharing.

Jennie Isbell is a massage therapist, yoga teacher and spiritual director. At the center of her work are a passion for spiritual hospitality that includes companionship seekers as they find ways to respond to divine presence and the persistent conviction that spirit and body are deeply, reciprocally connected. She is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in Richmond, IN and has served this community as adult religious education coordinator for three years. Newell Pledger-Shinn first learned wonder as a childhood woods wanderer and playful poet. He's been returning ever since to nature, to stillness, and to metaphor as central supports in his spiritual journey. As a wilderness leader, mediator, fundraiser, and timber framer, his joy is co-creating spaces for the loving and faithful encounter of self, other, and divine. He is a member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, where he serves on the ministry and oversight committee.



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COST & REGISTRATION

The standard rate for this four-day retreat is \$295 (commuter rate \$225). The fee includes program, lodging and food. Please ask if you need additional scholarship funds. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to hold a space for a program. If you need to cancel, the deposit can be applied toward a future workshop. “Double up and save” discount: bring a friend along to the same program weekend, and you’ll each receive \$20 off the standard rate!

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Plan to arrive after 5pm Thursday evening, in time for dinner at 6:30. The workshop will end by 2pm on Sunday. We are centrally located in western Massachusetts, close to both I-91 and Route 2. For those arriving by car, we will send directions when you register. Please let us know if you’d be interested in carpooling. The nearest Amtrak stations are Springfield and Amherst. Vermont Transit and Peter Pan bus lines stop in Greenfield. Please contact us to arrange a ride from these stations.

ROOM & BOARD

Our 19th-century farmhouse has hand-hewn beams and wide pine floors, with simple dorm-style lodging. The meeting-house and the first floor of the main building are wheelchair accessible. We serve nourishing, primarily vegetarian, home-cooked meals and always offer a vegetarian option. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Part of the community building at each retreat includes the joyful sharing of meal chores and clean-up.

WHAT TO BRING

Please bring your own toiletries, towels, and bedding (sleeping bag or sheets and blankets or comforter). Pillows are provided. Be sure to bring seasonally appropriate clothes and comfortable indoor and outdoor footwear. You might also like to bring a flashlight, journal, musical instrument... Please do NOT bring pets or candles. Cell phone reception is limited and we have limited internet access. We encourage guests to consider whether cell phone or computer use will detract from their experience of being fully present, here and now.

To register for this program, please fill out the information below and send it with a \$50 deposit made payable to Woolman Hill. The balance is due at the beginning of the workshop. For more details about our programs and facilities, please visit our website (www.woolmanhill.org) or use the above contact information.

<i>AWARENESS IN NATURE, Sept 29-Oct 2, 2011</i>	
NAME:	
E-MAIL:	PHONE:
ADDRESS:	
MONTHLY MEETING (if applicable):	
Enclosed is \$_____. I plan to pay a total of \$_____ (\$295 standard rate, \$225 commuter). Please bring a friend and register together for the “Double up and save” discount – pay \$275 each (see info above)!	
DIETARY, HOUSING, OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS:	