

Course Information:

Storytelling in the woods

10am to 4pm Sunday 1st October 2017

This course is suitable for anyone who works with children in an outdoor setting and/or would like to take the first steps towards telling a story themselves. Whether you are helping children discover their local wildlife or are working to develop speaking, listening and creative writing skills with young people then this course is for you.

A sense of wonder needs to be part of every wildlife discovery session. The natural world provides countless amazing and wonderful factual and scientific stories but there's room for imagination too. Part of the process of wanting to find out more about the natural world is making an emotional connection to the environment you're in. How we tell wild tales and introduce children to the natural world makes a big difference. Imaginative ways of looking at the natural world can engage a wider audience. Storytelling is one way of doing this.

A storyteller tells a tale rather than reading from a book allowing more engagement with their audience and flexibility to respond to the environment and to the reactions of listeners. Storytelling enables listeners to form their own pictures in their minds and so can open imaginations. Stories can be great fun; everyone likes a good story – adults too. However, you don't have to be an experienced storyteller to begin using stories within your activities. This course aims to develop confidence in using stories and gives participants the opportunity to take the first step to telling a tale themselves.

Content of the Day

This will be adapted to participants' preferences but will cover the following:

- Introductions, wake up and warm up
- How to use stories within an activity session - looking at stories to start activities, story walks, trails and themed sessions
- Traditional tales, how they can be used in an environmental setting
- Treasure boxes – how to encourage imagination and discovery
- Discovering stories from natural treasures, improvisation through fabulous fibs
- Sharing ideas: some tales and activities you can use
- How to remember a story - how to lift a story from the page or remember a story you have heard
- Tips on telling tales
- Things to consider when telling outside, looking after your voice
- Sourcing stories

Please have a think about what you would most like to gain from the course.

Course venue

The course will take place outside in Bottoms' Corner Wood, a working woodland that's part of the Wassledine farm, Upper Gravenhurst, Bedfordshire.

The wood is midway between the villages of Gravenhurst and Campton, near Shefford just within the parish of Gravenhurst. It's hidden away so further directions will be sent to you before the course date.

Although a beautiful setting, please be aware the facilities are quite basic. There is off road parking along a surfaced but bumpy track. It's then a short walk along rough uneven ground to the venue in the woods. There is an outside composting toilet with camping style hand wash.

If you would like to come by public transport, please let us know so we can assist.

What to bring

- A story you would like to tell (don't worry if you haven't got one, there will be plenty for you to choose from)
- Packed lunch (we'll provide tea, coffee, drinks, biscuits, fruit and homemade cake.)
- Suitable outdoor clothes, boots, waterproofs or sunhat (remember we will be outside all day)

Wet weather plan

There will be some shelter in the wood, so some rain is not a problem, but if the weather is extremely bad the course may have to be cancelled. Please provide us with the best number to contact you on in case we are very unlucky with the weather. If this happens a full refund will be provided. We will try our best to rearrange another date for the course. If you don't hear from us assume the course is going ahead.

Booking & Payment

The cost of the course is £65 per person. Please complete a booking form available from us or via <http://wassledine.co.uk/a-day-in-the-woods/courses-and-events/>

Course tutor: Jane Lambourne, Wassledine Storytelling

Jane has been telling stories for over 20 years. She has a wide range of experience that combines storytelling and environmental education with countryside management and farming. In the past Jane has been in employment with The Wildlife Trust, English Nature and Bedfordshire County Council. She has worked as a freelance storyteller for several years working in schools and at countryside events; telling stories and leading activities for nature reserves, museums, parks, libraries and community groups.

Recent clients - Jordans Mill, Sacred Heart Primary School, Gravenhurst Academy, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Forest of Marston Vale Trust, Lark Rise Academy, John Hellins Primary School and The Wildlife Trusts.

For more information about Jane's storytelling work visit: wassledine.co.uk/storytelling/

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