

Ecesis: The Process of Coming Home

If words like mindfulness, consciousness, nature, and ecology interest you, and if a chance to explore their confluence excites you, then this workshop may enlighten you. **Ecesis** [ih-see-sis] is the process by which a species becomes successfully established within a habitat. But it is so much more than this. It is the process of becoming part of, and interlaced within, the phenomenon of living time and living space. This necessitates not only a physical participation, but a consciousness confluence – a mindfulness. What does this ecesis, this emergent and ascendant collaboration with reality, look like?

Join Justin Thomas of NatureCITE and Gerould Wilhelm of the Conservation Research Institute as they spend two fascinating days in nature exploring and explaining the beautiful and life-affirming interrelatedness of mindfulness, consciousness, and natural integrity. Topics will include:

- The consequences of ecological enrichment versus ecological degradation via living examples.
- The mirroring relationships of healthy consciousness and healthy landscapes.
- Using nature's order, balance, and beauty to gain access to our own.
- Culturally induced reality in contrast to the functional reality of complex living systems.
- Definition of natural remnant.

In essence, this is an exploration of our moral condition and conscious awareness along the road to human ecesis. We can only become home, we can only ecize, by exploring our consciousness in a living landscape and truly knowing it within ourselves, perhaps for the first time. The only prerequisite is an open mind.



Healthy Remnant



Degraded Remnant

Justin Thomas is the co-founder and Science Director of NatureCITE, a non-profit, field-based, research and education organization that focuses on the interrelatedness of evolution and ecology, especially as they pertain to natural systems management. He conducts ecological and taxonomic research and teaches field-based plant identification workshops throughout central and eastern North America. An authority of Floristic Quality Assessment, he is the co-author of the Ecological Checklist of the Missouri Flora, holds a research associateship at Missouri Botanical Garden, and serves as a scientific advisor to several conservation groups.

Gerould Wilhelm, Research Director for the Conservation Research Institute, received his Ph.D. in botany in 1984 at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. His dissertation focused on the vascular flora of the Pensacola Region in Florida and southwestern Alabama. He has co-authored with Laura Rericha, the definitive compendium on local plants, the "Flora of the Chicago Region: a Floristic and Ecological Synthesis." He is also an authority on the lichens of the Chicago region. He is also noted for his development of the Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) methodology, which has become widely adapted for use in at many states and provinces. His research efforts include explorations in our understanding and awareness of the critical cultural relationships involved in the evolution of North American landscapes and ecosystems.

Dates: Two full days September 5 & 6: two areas in the field in Northeastern Illinois, two in Northwestern Indiana.

Cost: \$400

Special aspects: Students with a strong interest in philosophy, epistemology, and environmental pedagogy will benefit the most. The field seminar will be held entirely outdoors with a maximum of 30 people. Participants may wish to bring foldable garden chairs for use during lectures, as well as snacks, water, and lunch.

Registration and payment options below:

- Registration is on a first come/first serve basis.
- A deposit of \$150 is required at the time of registration, with the remaining balance due August 15th, 2020.
- No one other than registered attendees can participate in the field seminar.

Cancellation Policy: Due to illness or another unanticipated personal matter, registered attendees can transfer their spot to another person at any time with no financial penalty.

Registration and Payment Options:

For payment and registration go to: <http://www.conservationresearchinstitute.org/educational-offerings.html> where you will find information on the 2020 Seminar Series at the top of the page. Use the "Register" button to enroll in the class of your choice. Although PayPal is available on the website, we prefer that you send the registration form in with a check. Mail payment and the completed form to Conservation Research Institute: PO Box 1848, Sandpoint, Idaho, 83864. Your registration will be acknowledged via email from Margot Mazur.

