

Hello Friends!

**I am excited to be offering another Women's Wildlife Tracking Intensive beginning in January and have extended the program to 6 months!** This intensive is for women who are committed to an in-depth learning experience as well as to the group as a whole. The group size will be limited, in the hopes of creating intimate and direct learning opportunities for everyone. We will be meeting one day a month for 6 months. Participants will become more proficient with their identification of track and sign of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates, learn to recognize and understand animal gaits and track patterns, and be encouraged to pursue independent learning projects between sessions.

This course is geared to women with prior tracking experience who are looking to deepen their knowledge and hone their skills. It is also open to those with no prior tracking experience but who are motivated and committed to learning as these are the primary prerequisites!

**2023 dates are the following Saturdays (with Sunday of the same weekend as back-up dates):**

**January 14, February 11, March 4, April 15, May 20 and June 17**

All sessions will be held from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm in Western Massachusetts (mainly) and southern Vermont (possibly).

The cost for the 6-month program is \$650 (\$550 if registered and paid in full by September 1 and for returning participants). To apply, please email or call me at 413-625-2550 with your interest and any questions you may have. You will be sent an application for the program and upon acceptance, will receive more detailed information regarding registration. Deadline for registration is December 1, 2022.

For me, animal tracking is a profound practice of deepening my understanding of and respect for all wildlife, large and small. Wild animals often remain elusive and mysterious, and therefore separate from us...unless through careful observation and study of tracks and sign we begin to unravel some of their stories, thereby cultivating deeper understandings of the interconnectedness and preciousness all wild life.

When I enter into nature with the intention of "I don't know, but I want to know", I open myself to the mysteries, surprises and wonders of the natural world. The teachings are infinite and infinitely fascinating, if only I take the time to be present, look closely, and listen deeply. My hope is that in addition to reinforcing and expanding tracking knowledge and skills, this program serves to inspire wonder and deepen respect for all wild beings we share this planet with.

Thank you for your interest and I greatly appreciate you sharing this with anyone that you think might be interested!

*Kathy Dean*

Trotting Fox Programs

<https://www.trottingfoxprograms.com/>

The short-ish story: I worked in the field of outdoor education from 1983-1996 (well, technically 2001) as a wilderness guide and rock climbing instructor. After being self-employed as an acupuncturist (still am) for many years, I decided to return to outdoor education in 2013 (co-founded and taught programs with *Her Wild Roots: Nature Programs for Women*). I have since taught with *Hitchcock Center for the Environment*, *Vermont Wilderness School* and *Trotting Fox Programs*, with nature awareness as the medium, as this reflects my own personal journey as a naturalist. Animal tracking and bird language are the areas I am most passionate about and devote the most time to. Tracking teachers I have studied extensively with include George Leoniak, Susan Morse and of course, Nature. Other tracking teachers I have had the great pleasure of learning from include Paul Rezendes, Dan Gardoqui, Cristina Eisenberg, Nate Harvey, Daniel Hansche, Lee Gutteridge, Kersey Lawrence, Angela Gibbons, Janet Pesaturo, Linda Spielman, David Brown, Charley Eiseman and many peers. I currently hold a Cybertracker Level III Track and Sign Certification for the New England region and am the author of *Abbreviated Field Guide to Mammal Behavior: New England Region*.