

# 2018 Spring Permaculture Classes Schedule

## Urban Harvest/Permaculture Guild of Houston

Shawn McFarland, Facilitator

**Potential Guild Instructors:** JB= Joe Blanton; DC=David Crossley; GE=Gary Edmondson; MCE= Mary Carol Edwards, NE= Nancy Edwards; PG=Patrick Gibbs; KF: BHn=Bill Hancock; BHr=Brian Herod; MK=Mickey Kleinhenz; WK=Wade Koterak, ML= Marissa Llosa, PM= Patricia Michael; SM=Shawn McFarland; RN= Rebecca Narrowe; JO=Jim Ohmart; BR=Bob Randall; RS=Ray Sher; MCS=MC Swearingen; MT=Maisha Tianuru; KT=Kevin Topek; CV=Cas Van Woerden; GV=Gita Van Woerden  
Coordinator – Brian Herod

Permaculture is an ecologically inspired energy-conscious way to design satisfying living arrangements that are sustainable. The general approach is to design these living arrangements so that food production, housing, communities, and nature are all able to prosper for centuries. We therefore start our courses with basic principles, and then teach concentrated modules in food design (fall), housing and community design (winter), and designing nature restoration (spring).

### MODULE 4: RESTORING NATURE THROUGH PERMACULTURE

(4 days – Total 20.5 hours)

**Sustainable Living 1 & 2 are prerequisites for any part of this course. No ecological or nature training is assumed.**

In this module we will combine nature study at area woodlands and watersheds with class sessions that explore forests and prairies, restoration permaculture, and its implications for sustaining our planet. We will then plan and carry out a restoration project at a local site. *Bring a sack lunch to each of these sessions. Two of the sessions are partly or entirely outside, so students should have clothing appropriate for the weather and suitable footwear for natural areas.*

#### Day 1 Restoring Nature

**Sun April 8 - 10:00am-3:00pm 5hr**

Location: Shlenker School

Instructors: JB, MCS

Our first session is at a natural area. By walking around with knowledgeable guides, we learn how to observe nature using the permaculture perspective. We also look at a restored a natural area has become an outdoor classroom. Restoration could not take place without bioregional organization, so we study the permaculture of that too.

#### Bring a sack lunch

10:00am-11:00am – (1hr) Observing Nature: a Permaculture Perspective [JB]

11:00am-12:30pm – (1.5hr) Observation & Restoration: Mini-project for all abilities (3) [JB, MCS]

12:30pm-1:30pm – (1hr) –Lunch and film

1:30pm-2:00pm – (30min) Restoration [JB]

2:00pm-3:00pm – (1hr) A Permaculture Design Principle Scavenger Hunt! [JB]

#### Day 2 Ecosystems—

**Sun April 15 – 12:00pm–4:30pm 4.5 hr**

Location: Japhet Community

Our focus this time is on some basic ecology and looks at the broad questions about nature and the threats to it. We then look at trees and forests—remarkable communities of plants and animals that act as our planet's lungs and kidneys.

12:10pm-2:10pm – (2hr) Ecology, Restoration Ecology and Deeper Ecology [BR]

2:10pm-2:30pm – (20min) Break

2:30pm-4:30pm – (2hr) Trees, Forests, Water and Energy [MCS, BR]

#### Day 3 Texas Ecosystems

**Sun April 22 - 12:00pm-5:00pm 5hr**

Location: Japhet Community

Instructors: MCS, ML

Our third session focuses on our own state's ecosystems. Professional Arborist MC Swearingen leads us on a tour of Texas geology, geography, and natural history. We also look at our prairies and wetlands with Mary Carol Edwards, Program Coordinator at Texas Coastal Watershed Program/Texas Sea Grant.

12:10pm-2:40pm – (2.5hr) Texas Ecosystems [MCS]

2:30pm-3:00pm – (20min) Break

3:00pm-4:30pm – (1.5hr) Prairies & Wetlands [MCE]

4:30pm-5:00pm – (30min) Hands on

## **Day 4 Restoration Project**

**Sun April 29** - 10:00am-5:00pm 7hr

Location: Japhet Community

Instructors: BH, JB, MCS

### **Bring a sack lunch**

Our last session will be at a local natural area and will be devoted to restoring a habitat feature. Be prepared to get dirty and have fun.

10:00am-5pm – (7hr) Overview & Designing a Restoration in Break-out Groups [BH, JB, RN, MCS]

Lunch & breaks (60min)