



WINTER BREAK AT HARVARD FOREST

JANUARY 17-22, 2016

READING AND CONSERVING NEW ENGLAND:

Interdisciplinary insights into a landscape's past, present, and future

Every landscape has a history of natural and human processes that have shaped the land and conditioned its future. Scientific interpretations of modern landscapes – and efforts to conserve them for the future – therefore depend on the ability to ‘read’ the subtle signs of what shaped the land before, and to anticipate how new processes such as climate change might affect the land’s future.

Winter Break Week will use Harvard’s 3,700-acre Harvard Forest in rural Petersham, Massachusetts as a living classroom. Ecologists and conservation/forestry specialists will guide students through a diverse landscape of forests, ponds, meadows, and wetlands (snowshoes provided!) to find and discuss evidence of change from pre-history to today. Through a series of guided workshops, artists, writers, and landscape designers will help students create reflective pieces that interpret these issues for a broad audience.

Limited to 10 students.

LOGISTICS

On Sunday, January 17, students will meet the blue Harvard Forest van in front of the Harvard University Herbaria at 22 Divinity Ave at **11:00am SHARP**. Students will be housed at the Forest in Fisher House: a large, comfortable restored farmhouse including separate rooms and linens for each student, wireless internet access, and a fully equipped kitchen. The kitchen will be stocked with groceries (procured in advance by Harvard Forest administrative staff) for students to make their own snacks and continental breakfasts for each day of the program. A catered lunch and hot dinner will be provided each evening. Students will be fully engaged in class and outdoor activities all week. Students should bring along **plenty of warm, layered clothes including high waterproof boots (preferably snow boots that cover the ankle) for snow and wet weather**. Some days will include excursions that require 3+ hours of walking in the snow. We will provide snowshoes but these are no substitute for boots.

Students will be driven back to Cambridge after dinner on the evening of Friday, January 22 (arriving ~8:00pm).

SCHEDULE

Sunday, Jan. 17: Arrival, Trees 101, Landscape History

- Welcome Lunch, Introduction to the Harvard Forest (*Clarisse Hart*)
 - *Afternoon Session & Field Excursion: Trees 101 at Harvard Pond* (*Melissa LeVangie*)
 - Dinner + Fisher Museum diorama tour (*Prof. David Foster*)
- ((Overnight: familiarize yourself with at least one section of “Reading the Landscape” packet))

Monday, Jan. 18: Reading the Landscape

- *Morning Field Excursion I: Learn to read the land and its history from vegetation, cultural artifacts, and other ecological clues during a guided hike of Slab City.* (*with Prof. David Foster*)
- *Morning Field Excursion II: Collect sediment cores for paleoecological analysis.* (*with Prof. David Foster*)
- *Afternoon Workshop: Writing about the Landscape* (*with Lynda Mapes and Clarisse Hart*)
- Free reflection time before dinner

Tuesday, Jan. 19: Seeing Scientifically

- *Morning Session & Field Excursion: Learn how invasive species are changing our forests, then tour the some of the Forest’s longest-running research sites* (*David Orwig, Emery Boose*)
 - Note: during the hike, gather some items to draw for the afternoon workshop
- *Afternoon Workshop: Drawing the landscape: botanical illustration* (*Elizabeth Farnsworth*)
- Free reflection time before dinner
- Evening screening of environmental film TBA

Wednesday, Jan. 20: Speaking for the Landscape

- *Morning Workshop: Work with <designer TBD> and staff from the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to design public installations that will raise awareness of the community benefits that forests provide*
- *Afternoon Excursion: Explore the colonial-era tannery site at Harvard Forest* (*Prof. David Foster*)
- Free reflection time before dinner
- *Evening Workshop: Presentation and discussion of student writing* (*Lynda Mapes & Clarisse Hart*)

Thursday, Jan. 21: Conserving the Landscape

- *Morning Field Excursion: Conversation and field walk with local landowners Ben and Susie Feldman about managing a large land base for timber, recreation, wildlife, and aesthetics – at their property adjacent to HF.*
- *Afternoon Workshop: Future scenarios of landscape change* (*TBD*)
- Free reflection time before dinner

Friday, Jan. 22: Landscape/Road/Urban Ecology and Land-Use Planning

- *Morning Lecture & Excursion: Graduate School of Design professor Richard Forman will discuss landscape ecology and related principles, theory, and models for an introduction to the*

concepts of landscape design, changing land mosaics, conservation and land use planning. Then students will explore the surrounding rural village of Petersham to see how roads, vehicles, and the town integrate with the forested landscape.

- *Afternoon excursion*: Field trip to the rural/suburban areas of Westminister and Gardner, Mass., then informal discussion introducing proposed spatial plans and ideas for optimally designing landscapes. Students will then diagram/sketch and discuss their landscape design ideas.
- *Evening* - Synthesis Discussion & Dinner (*All*). Departure for Cambridge at ~6:30pm, arriving ~8:00pm.

READINGS

(will be provided to you on-site)

Foster, D. R. 2014. *Hemlock: A Forest Giant on the Edge*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.

Foster, D.R. et al. 2010. *Wildlands and Woodlands: A Vision for the New England Landscape*. Harvard Forest, distributed by Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. 36pp.

Assorted readings in natural history, environmental writing, and landscape design.

LEADERS

Staff:

David Foster (OEB Professor, Director of the Harvard Forest; drfoster@fas.harvard.edu)

Emery Boose (Ecologist, Information Manager, Harvard Forest; boose@fas.harvard.edu)

Elizabeth Farnsworth (New England Wild Flower Society;)

Feldman Family

Richard Forman (Harvard GSD prof of landscape ecology; rforman@gsd.harvard.edu)

Clarisse Hart (Outreach and Education Manger, Harvard Forest; hart3@fas.harvard.edu)

Melissa LeVangie (Shelter Tree; Petersham Tree Warden; melissalevangie@gmail.com)

*Lynda Mapes (Harvard Bullard Fellow and Writer in Residence, Harvard Forest;
lyndamapes@comcast.net)*

Dave Orwig (Forest Ecologist, Harvard Forest; orwig@fas.harvard.edu)

More about the Harvard Forest: <http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/>