

# Wild Renewal:

## *Rekindling Reverential Resilience*



**July 8 - 12, 2020**

**Occidental (Western Sonoma), California**

*With Kerry Brady and Brock Dolman*

*Apply by May 1*

**Description:** *Wild Renewal* is an invitation to align with what it is to be an inherent part of an evolving and intelligent universe in order to support our ability to create a resilient Earth community for future generations. It is for leaders, activists and change-makers who recognize that underlying the current ecological crisis - including climate chaos, mass extinctions and the ongoing assault on bio-cultural diversity - is the modern industrial worldview that alienates humans from Nature - the natural world and our own deepest nature. If we are to create the world we know possible - where all beings have the freedom to co-exist peacefully in balance with a thriving Earth - it is essential to free ourselves from the predominant story of separation and re-member who we are in relation to the whole.

As Gregory Bateson said, "The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think." The industrial mindset not only experiences nature as separate but also believes that the world is simply made up of building blocks of inert matter. Yet, the sciences have helped us to rediscover what our ancestors knew: that the same creative force which brought forth the stars and Redwoods is also coursing through, and informing, each one of us. On *Wild Renewal*, we will open to and explore what it is to live in a reverential dance between form and formless, matter and mystery, where Bobcats and Oaks and rivers are imbued with their own communicative intelligence. During our time we will move beyond the deep seated conditioning that assumes that humans alone are sentient and open to what it is to be informed by the

greater whole, listening and responding to the myriad ways we are 'acted upon' and whispered to in any one moment.

For five days we will live in the rolling coastal hills of Occidental, CA in a spectacular endemic ecosystem marked by abundant wildlife, meandering creeks, prairie meadows, Sargent Cypress woodlands, conifer forests and serpentine chaparral. Our goal is threefold: to re-inhabit the wild, to deepen our way of listening and responding to the world and to renew. Through engaged participation, we will apprentice ourselves to the intelligence within living systems, to bird language and to the mystery within mycelial networks. Through solo wanders, dreamwork, listening meditation, council practice, ceremony and somatic resiliency work, we will shed what is ready to be released and open to what seeks to claim us. After an initial framing that offers context for the collective rite of passage we are in the midst of, we will live and learn from the land, moving between solo time and group processes, silence and dialogue, hands on 'mending the wild' and other perception-enhancing practices that support active engagement with nature, inside and out.

In aligning with the cosmic creativity of that which has been unfolding for 14 billion years, we support what cultural historian and 'geologist' Thomas Berry called a 'functional cosmology', inviting a practical, engaged and reverential relationship with a unifying origin story. This invitation may sound lofty and extraneous in the face of all that is pressing and immediate in our world. Yet, the impact of our actions is directly connected to where we are in our foundation. If we are primarily connected to the despair of a collapsing worldview, we are more likely to react from that place. If, on the other hand, we are connected to the innate resilience and imagination of our 14 billion year inheritance, we move from feeling exhausted and disconnected to being renewed and restored, supporting our ability to respond in a way that is life-affirming for the whole.

The journey takes place beyond the everyday mind and involves all of our senses. As we live on the land together, waking with the dawn chorus of birds, wonder wandering in creek corridors and watching stars emerge in twilight skies, we return to our innate rhythm, and renew our minds, bodies and spirits in support of all that we each serve. By coming together in community and engaging in mutually reflective encounters with the land and with each other, we re-member ourselves to the world, intimately attuning to what is being called forth through each one of us during this immense time of change.

**Who is this for:** For leaders, activists and change-makers awakening from the predominant cultural story of separation who are, in their unique way, working towards a resilient, thriving Earth community for future generations for ALL life. It is for those on the frontlines of change who are ready to renew and restore by connecting with a larger story that offers perspective essential to facing the challenges of our bio-cultural crisis.

**Cost:** Sliding scale fee of \$950 - \$500; *with additional scholarship support available.*

**For more information, or to apply, please visit:**  
**[www.ecologyofawakening.org/clergy](http://www.ecologyofawakening.org/clergy)**