

WVMN Class Description

Title:	SKETCHING AND ILLUSTRATION FOR NATURALISTS
Objectives:	Help students overcome their fear of drawing and understand its value in observation and note-taking. Expose them to available materials, principles, and techniques for sketching.
Class type:	Elective
Time:	1 hour
Optimal season:	Any
Materials:	Paper, pencils, disposable technical pens, and (for demonstration) technical pen, colored pencils, watercolor, brushes. If nature printing demonstration is planned: water soluble block printing ink, soft rubber brayer, sheet of plexiglass or heavy glass, paper towels, water containers.
Expected outcomes:	The student will gain a basic understanding of <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the value of sketching in improving their observation skill as well as enhancing their notes.2. the fact that anyone can make useful sketches.3. a variety of materials useful in making sketches and illustrations.4. ways to make sketching easier, in black and white or color.5. the considerations particular to drawing for publication.6. the technique of nature printing on paper.

WVMN Class Outline

1. Why naturalists should draw
 - a. To enhance observation
 - b. A means of taking notes
 - c. To illustrate your writing
2. Materials and techniques
 - a. Archival or permanent materials
 - b. Pencil and paper
 - c. Pen and ink
 - d. Colored pencils
 - e. Watercolor
 - f. Using color
 - Hue, value, and intensity
 - The color wheel and mixing colors
3. Basic principles of drawing
 - a. Arranging your subject – choosing what parts to draw
 - b. Light and shade create form
 - c. Getting the shapes and proportions right, negative spaces
 - d. How much detail is just enough?
4. Illustration: drawing for publication
 - a. Establish medium, proportion, and approximate size
 - b. Keep in mind what needs to be shown (e.g., key characters)
 - c. Starting with photocopy or electronic scan
 - d. Digital camera, computer, and printer
5. Nature printing for notes and illustrations
6. The myth of “artistic talent”