

Wildcrafted Colour: Dyeing with Invasive Plants

Immerse yourself in the wild beauty of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park during this weekend learning experience. Textile artist Megan Samms will lead you through the process of preparing and dyeing natural fibres using invasive plants harvested from the boreal forest.

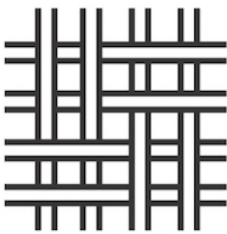
Participant Information

This workshop vacation includes:

- Instruction and hands-on experience in all aspects of dyeing with plants;
- Small samples of 100% wool yarn and 100% organic cotton fabric for you to dye and take home with you as references for your future dyeing efforts;
- Meals - locally sourced ingredients prepared by some of Slave Lake's finest chefs; and
- Accommodations at the Nest Comfort Camping in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park.



Yarns and fabrics dyed by Megan Samms.



About Megan Samms

Megan Samms lives in the boreal forest of British Columbia during the winter and protects the boreal forest of Alberta during the summer when she works as a fire tower lookout person in the Slave Lake Forest. She grows dye plants in her garden and sustainably harvests others from the forest around her. She is committed to using 100% natural fibres, organic whenever possible. She weaves her hand-dyed fibres into beautiful textiles and took part in an artist-in-residence program at Custom Woolen Mills in Carstairs, Alberta in fall 2016. She is a member of the Guild of Canadian Weavers and an active contributor to their newsletter, The Bulletin.

About Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park

Located on the northeastern shore of Lesser Slave Lake, Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park (LSLPP) protects an unusual sand dune and wetland complex as well as representative examples of the boreal forest and foothills natural regions. Trails, campgrounds, lakes and 7 km of natural sand beach provide a variety of recreational opportunities to visitors, including hiking, birdwatching, mountain biking, swimming, sunbathing, fishing, paddling, kitesurfing, and, of course, camping.



A Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park sunset.



A chestnut-sided warbler banded at the LSLBO.

Special mention must be made of the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO), a hub for monitoring bird migration within LSLPP. This facility is operated by a non-profit organization and is part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. Since the LSLBO was established in 1993, they have recorded over 250 species of birds within LSLPP and banded nearly 75,000 birds. Migration data collected by the LSLBO contributes to our understanding of migration routes, bird lifespans, and bird population trends.

The Nest Comfort Camping

The Nest is a peaceful, sun-washed timber-frame building located next to the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation within beautiful Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. The Nest has room for 10 guests with four bunk-bed rooms and two queen-bed rooms. In addition, it has two washrooms with showers and a large common room with full kitchen facilities and fireplace. Outside is a large deck with barbeque, firepit and picnic table.



The Nest Comfort Camping.

What to Bring

To maximize your enjoyment of the **Wildcrafted Colour: Dyeing with Invasive Plants** workshop, please bring the following:

- Bedding – if you're staying in a single occupancy room, bring a pillow, queen-bed sized sheets and a comforter or a sleeping bag. If you're staying in a shared room, bring a pillow, twin-bed sized sheets and a comforter or a sleeping bag.
- Towel and washcloth
- Toiletries, a hair dryer, and personal hygiene products
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Clothing for a variety of weather conditions as a good portion of the workshop will be taking place outdoors. Please ensure that you bring:
 - Rain gear including boots
 - Comfortable footwear for walking
 - Warm layers as well as summer clothes
 - Hat and sunglasses
 - Some old clothes that you don't mind getting stained with dye
- A notebook and pen – this is where you can keep your notes on the processes Megan will be teaching you, as well as your dyed wool and cotton samples.
- **Optional:** Meals and refreshment breaks will be provided but you might wish to bring some of your favourite snack foods for the evenings.
- **Optional:** Camera
- **Optional:** Binoculars in case there's some great wildlife viewing opportunities
- **Optional:** Musical instrument for the campfire on Friday night



Wool skeins dyed by Megan Samms.

Schedule

Friday, August 4, 2017

Time	Location	Activity
4:00 pm – 5:45 pm	The Nest	Arrival, registration, settle into the Nest
5:45 pm – 6:00 pm	The Nest	Icebreaker
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	The Nest	Supper catered by Tony's Custom Catering
7:00 pm – 7:15 pm	The Nest	Introduction to the workshop and orientation to the site
7:15 pm – 8:00 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab	History and uses of natural dyes
8:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Fire pit by the Nest	Stories by the campfire

Saturday, August 5, 2017

Time	Location	Activity
8:00 am – 9:00 am	The Nest	Continental breakfast at the Nest
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and lawn	Introduction to dyeing – necessary tools, chemicals, tips and tricks and where to purchase supplies
10:00 am – 10:30 am	The Nest	Refreshment break
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and lawn	Scouring and mordanting fibre
12:00 pm – 1 pm	The Nest	Lunch catered by The Fix Café
1 pm – 2:30 pm	Trails around the Boreal Centre	Dye and food plants of the boreal forest – identification in the wild
2:30pm – 3:00 pm	The Nest	Refreshment Break
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Around the Boreal Centre, Devonshire Beach	Harvesting invasive weeds to make dyes
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	The Nest	Supper catered by Tony's Custom Catering
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and lawn	Preparation of dyes – cleaning and garbling plants harvested, boiling them in the pots

Sunday, August 6, 2017

Time	Location	Activity
8:00 am – 9:00 am	The Nest	Continental breakfast at the Nest
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and lawn	Colour shifting, using modifiers, post-mordanting
10:00 am – 10:30 am	The Nest	Refreshment Break
10:30 am – 11:00 am	The Nest	Pack up and check out of Nest
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and lawn	Dye time!
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and/or lawn if it's a sunny day	Lunch catered by The Fix Café
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab and lawn	More dye time!
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Lawn outside the Boreal Centre	Group photo with dyed goods
3:15pm – 3:30 pm	Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation lab or lawn	Good byes