

## DISCUSSION COURSE



## EXPLORING DEEP ECOLOGY

**This eight-session course addresses core values and how they affect the way we view and treat the Earth.**

Three tenets of deep ecology include: (1) humans are but one species among others in the community of nature, they are not separate from their environment; (2) everything is connected and inter-relationship are constantly changing; (3) ecological sustainability requires a long-term view, as well as an understanding of such ecological concepts as diversity and symbiosis.

### PURPOSE:

- To clarify Earth-related values through discussions about deep ecology and related topics;
- To discover how personal values affect the way we view and treat the Earth;
- To explore what it means to take personal responsibility for the Earth.

The only fee associated with the course is \$25, which covers the cost of the book of readings and materials. The course is being offered by the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, located in the barn and on the land behind the Passionist Monastery at 1920 Newburg Road in Louisville, KY.

For more information about hosting or participating in this discussion course or other transformative learning opportunities, contact the Earth & Spirit Center by phone at 502.452.2749, or email: [earthandspirit@passionist.org](mailto:earthandspirit@passionist.org), or visit our website: [www.earthandspiritcenter.org](http://www.earthandspiritcenter.org).

### TOPICS COVERED:

**Deep Ecology:** Human beings are one of many species, everything is interconnected, and sustainability should replace economic growth as our long-term goal. How do these underlying assumptions differ from current assumptions of our society?

**The Gaia Hypothesis:** In some ways, the Earth functions like a living organism, reflecting the interdependence of life and Earth's compensating mechanisms. How do the biological and physical worlds interact to create a self-regulating process?

**Spirituality and the Earth:** Some environmentalists and theologians emphasize a spiritual dimension in our relationship with the Earth. Some believe spirituality is the key to finding motivation to live on a sustainable basis with other species and the Earth's finite resources.

**Native American Wisdom:** Most Americans are far removed from the Earth in their daily lives. What can be learned from the rich heritage of Native Americans and their relationship with Mother Earth?

**Ecopsychology:** Modern life tends to cut us off from our bond to the natural world. Could restoration of that bond help to heal both individuals and the planet?

**Simplicity:** With conveniences of modern life come distractions. What are the benefits and challenges of living a simple life in a society dominated by materialism and technology?

**Bioregionalism:** Each person lives in a unique geographical area with natural boundaries. Will a deeper understanding of our bioregion enable us to better care for the Earth?

**Ritual:** What can be learned from traditions where ceremonies, poetry, music and celebrations express respect and appreciation for the Earth?