In this course, educators will study a variety of journaling techniques and artistic medium for observing and documenting the natural world, including the use of illustrations, painting, photographs, print material, and personal/professional writing. The course is designed to:

1) introduce educators to strategies for improving the artistic, written and reflective abilities of K-12 students using nature experiences; 2) encourage educators to use the outdoors around the school and community as sites for nature-related observation, documentation, and artistic/written expression; and 3) help educators develop school-based curriculum strategies for integrating art with science and writing through nature journaling.

**Instructors:**
- Clare Walker Leslie, Artist and Author (Nature Journaling)
- Dr. Tamra Willis, MBC Assistant Professor, MAT Education
- Betty Gatewood, MBC Teacher-in-Residence and Local Artist

**Course Texts:**


**Tentative Course Schedule:**

*Day one: Tapping into your Sense of Wonder*
- Welcome and introductions
- Introduction to Your Journaling – “Water Writes”
- Environment-Based Learning and MWEE (Watershed Address).
- Journaling techniques: Learning to Observe

*Day two: Documenting your Sense of Place*
- Journaling Techniques for your “Sense of Place”- Sketching & Recording on-site
- Field trip to Cyrus McCormick Farm Wayside, Steeles Tavern, VA
  - Stream and field studies with:
    - Sandy Greene, Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation Service
    - Tara Sieber, Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality
- Group reflections, discussions of cross-curriculum applications

*Day three: Drawn to Nature*
- Natural Illustrations
- Painting in Nature
- Group reflections, discussions of cross-curriculum applications

*Day four: Pictures plus Words: Journaling at its Best*
- Strategies for outdoor art
- Integrating art, science, and writing
- Group reflections, discussions of cross-curriculum applications

*Day five: No Child Left Inside*
- Tips for taking students outside
- Developing a nature journaling program
- Sharing ideas for implementation

**Summer 2009– Involvement in class discussions and activities via Blackboard**

**Tentative Assignments:**
1. Develop a Nature Journaling implementation plan for teaching nature observation, reflection, art and writing to K-12 students. This will include a two-three page overview to guide lessons/units and a graphic organizer of your plan. In the narrative, describe and
demonstrate how you would use journaling and/or provide journaling opportunities to students.

2. Keep a nature journal. During the week of class, keep a nature journal to illustrate different journaling techniques. The journal will be a portfolio to show what you have learned in the course. Grades will be based on content, not artistic abilities.

3. Read and review a book by or about a well-known nature journalist such as Beatrix Potter or Isaac Walton. More examples will be provided in class. Your 3-5 page book review should include reflections based on your own experiences and ideas for sharing the content with students.

4. Write reflective responses via blackboard (i.e. 3 to 4 one page reflections) and participate in discussion board activities.

5. Anything else we decide (as a group) that would help you implement ideas learned in the course!

Note: You will submit all assignments via blackboard. We may work on them during the week in class, but most will not be due until after we meet.

Course Details:
1. Wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Bring rain coats. We will go outside.

2. Please bring a water bottle and coffee mug if possible.

3. Please bring a copy of grade-level appropriate standards (for one or more grades). Also, bring year-long calendar/pacing guides you may use in your work (something that tells what you teach when).

4. Please bring any books or other resources (you happen to have handy) related to journaling or nature education. We will share resources with each other. If you have books by or about well-known nature journalists, please be sure to bring those!

5. We will go on at least one field trip and plan to car pool as much as possible. You might want to bring a digital camera to record ideas on these trips.

*Note: Drawings and journal page by Betty Gatewood.