

Veterinary Herbal Apprenticeship and Retreat 23-24 Schedule

Module I: September 6-9, 2024

| Date and Time | Topic | Description | Location |
|---|---|---|-----------------|
| Friday, September 6 6:00 pm-? | Cocktails, Mocktails and Introductions | We will start with an informal get-together to get to know one another before the classwork starts. | Lowood Garden |
| Saturday, September 7 8:00-8:30 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:30-10:00 | Opening and Welcome, Introduction | Introduction to the Course and Lowood Educational Center | Classroom |
| 10:00-10:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 10:30-11:15 | Lecture: Introduction to Integrative Medicine | This lecture will introduce you to the concepts of Integrative Medicine as a whole, with specific emphasis on Herbal Traditions. | Classroom |
| 11:15-12:00 | Lecture: An Alternative Perspective on the Routine Exam | In this lecture, we will expand on the routine physical exam by learning how to incorporate the entire body into our findings. By applying the concepts of holistic medicine and energetics, the physical exam helps to determine an herbal prescription. | Classroom |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch | | |
| 1:30-3:00 | Lecture: Introduction to Western Herbal Medicine | This lecture will go over the basics of medicinal use of Western Herbs. The concept of Evidence-based Medicine will be introduced. We will discuss how herbs can be used in terms of physiology, treatment modalities, safety and interactions. How to read a monograph will be explained, and there will be cases presented. | Classroom |
| 3:00-3:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 3:30-5:00 | Herb walk | This outdoor adventure will be an introduction to Lowood's gardens. We will learn about cultivated and native medicinal plants as well as other non-medicinal native plants. | Lowood Garden |
| Sunday, September 8 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | Lecture: A World of Herbalism | There are a plethora of ways to look at herbal medicine in our world. Since people started living in communities, they have developed culturally unique philosophies of medicine. In this lecture, we will briefly describe TCVM, Ayurveda, Unani-Tibb, and the history of herbalism in North America. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-12:30 | Lecture: Ethnomedicine | The origins of herbal medicine are from native cultures around the world. This lecture will explain how many cultures | Classroom |

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| | | have chosen medicinal herbs throughout time, and then proceed to detail how a few specific native cultures choose their herbs. The societal examples will focus on ethnoveterinary uses of herbs. We will also briefly discuss how pharmaceuticals have coopted herbal chemicals for allopathic drugs and the pros and cons of traditional herbal use versus pharmaceutical use. | |
| 12:30-2:00 | Lunch | | |
| 2:00-4:00 | MM: Cardiovascular | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the cardiovascular system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 4:00-4:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 4:30-5:30 | Personal Wellness: Lecture/Lab – Breathing Techniques | We will begin with an exploration of breathing methods for health, including both relaxing and energizing approaches. Then we get to go to the beach to practice these techniques! | Classroom and Beach |
| Monday, September 9 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: Adaptogens | This lecture will start with a detailed explanation of adaptogens as an herbal group. Monographs of 8-12 herbs will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-1:00 | MM: Endocrine | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the endocrine system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 1:00-2:30 | Lunch | | |
| 2:30-4:30 | Lab: Tea Making | Preparations of infusions and decoctions will be made, as well as methods for combining them. Beverage blending will be demonstrated. All teas will be tasted. We will also introduce students to the apothecary. Students will have an opportunity to blend their own formulas. | Kitchen Classroom and Apothecary |
| 4:30-5:00 | Closing | | Lowood Garden |

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Module II: October 11-14, 2024

| Date and Time | Topic | Description | Location |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Friday, October 11 | Breakfast on your own | | |
| 8:30-9:30 | Travel to Island Farm | | Van |
| 9:30-11:30 | Island Farm Field Trip | On this field trip, we will be stepping back in time to experience mid-1800's farm life. We will spend time discussing the medicinal herbs in the kitchen garden and the traditional "medicine chest." We will also look at the crops and trees grown and visit a traditional cookhouse. | Island Farm |
| 11:30-12:30 | Free Time | This time will be to explore the rest of the farm, ask questions and enjoy a picnic lunch we will be bringing with us. | Island Farm |
| 12:30-12:45 | Travel to Elizabethan Garden | | Van |
| 1:00-3:00 | Herbwalk | This excursion to the Elizabethan Gardens will include a guided herb walk. The Gardens start with a proper English herb garden, which includes many non-culinary medicinal herbs. We will then progress through the Gardens while learning about many native and beautiful species of plants. There will be time for personal exploration as well as plant and gift shopping. | Elizabethan Garden |
| 3:00-4:00 | Return to Lowood | There is a secret bonus stop on the return trip! | Van |
| Saturday, October 12 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 7:50-8:20 | | | |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | Lecture: Food Therapy | This lecture will discuss using food as medicine, with and without herbs. We will briefly discuss home-cooking for pets, both healthy and with chronic disease. If we have time, we will look at the origins and medicinal qualities of spices in food. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-12:00 | Lecture: It's All Relative: Plant Families | This lecture will discuss the similarities of species within the same plant family. It will also highlight the differences. While each species must be taken individually, it will aid the student in thinking about plants in groups and provide clues about medicinal properties based on their familial characteristics. | Classroom |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch | | |
| 1:30-3:00 | Lecture: Organoleptics | The definition of organoleptics is "being, affecting, or relating to qualities (as taste, color, odor, and feel) of a substance (as a food or drug) that stimulate the sense organs" (Merriam Webster dictionary). In | Classroom |

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| | | this lecture, we will explain groups of herbs and their uses based on their organoleptics. The class will discuss the 5 common flavors described in herbal medicine, and taste examples of each flavor. Students will begin to discern the quality of herbs based on their organoleptics. | |
| 3:00-3:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 3:30-5:00 | Student Herb Walk Presentations and Teas | 2-3 herb walk presentations plus tea homework sampling | Classroom |
| Sunday, October 13 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Room |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: GIT | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the gastrointestinal system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:30-2:00 | Lab: Food Therapy | In this lab, we will demonstrate the crockpot method of home-cooking for animals, with and without herbal supplementation. We will also prepare bone broth. We will explain nut butter balls as a vehicle for herbs and other medications, and students will have an opportunity to prepare their own nut butter balls with herbs. | Kitchen Classroom |
| 2:00-4:30 | Personal Wellness: Making Food Naturally | This lab will be continued with human food, in which we make fun wholesome foods, such as nut butters, herbal syrups, granola and season delights. The purpose will be to show how easy it is to prepare stock items and delicious foods healthfully and from scratch. | Kitchen Classroom |
| Monday, October 14 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: Liver | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the liver will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-1:00 | MM: Antimicrobials | Monographs of 8-12 antimicrobial herbs will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and | Classroom |

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| | | in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | |
| 1:00-1:30 | Closing | | Classroom |

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Module III: November 2-4, 2024

| Date and Time | Topic | Description | Location |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| Saturday, November 2 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Intention | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:00 | MM: Nervines, Part I | Monographs of 12-14 herbs both for the nervous system and for mental health ("nerves") will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:00-10:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 10:30-12:00 | MM: Nervines, Part II | There are so many wonderful Nervines, this is a 2-part lecture! Monographs of 12-14 herbs both for the nervous system and for mental health ("nerves") will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch | | |
| 1:30-2:30 | Lecture: Integrative Pain Management: Balancing Quality of Life with Comfort | Pain management is an evolving discipline in veterinary medicine. The opioid crisis and lack of access to opioids now and in the future, will drive the need for alternative pain options for both acute and chronic pain. In this lecture, we will review a multi-modal approach to pain - including herbal medications, allopathic medications, joint supplements. | Classroom |
| 2:30-3:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 3:00-4:30 | Lab: Tinctures | This lab will cover making tinctures with a variety of menstrua, including glycerites, vinegars and alcohols. The preparation of simples and formulas will be covered. We will also demonstrate blending premade simples into formulas for specific patients. | Kitchen Classroom |
| 4:30-6:00 | Student Herb Walk Presentations and Foods | 2-3 herb walk presentations and food homework sampling | Classroom |
| Sunday, November 3 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | Lecture: Herbal Formulation, Dosing and Marketing | In this lecture, we will go through how to put together an herbal formula. Things to consider include: type of administration, type of herb, number of | Classroom |

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| | | herbs, specifics of patient, environment and speed of delivery. We will also discuss the determination of dosage, and the many methods to decide on a dose. There will be case examples of formula preparation. Herbal labeling will be detailed. Lastly, we will discuss marketing and pricing as a veterinary herbalist. | |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-1:00 | MM: Pulmonary | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the respiratory system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 1:00-2:30 | Lunch | | |
| 2:30-3:00 | Drive to Nags Head Woods Preserve | | Van |
| 3:00-4:30 | Herb Walk | The Nags Head Woods Preserve, a Nature Conservancy site, has a plethora of native plant species, some medicinal, some edible and some part of the ecosystem. This park also has wildlife, and we will be able to examine animal signs and discuss the ecosystem as a whole. | Nags Head Woods Preserve |
| 4:30-5:00 | Return to Lowood | | Van |
| Monday, November 4 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: Musculoskeletal | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the musculoskeletal system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-12:30 | Lecture: Herbs as Part of a Rehabilitation Plan | Rehabilitation is becoming increasingly popular in veterinary medicine. Rehabilitation is more than just recovery from surgery. It includes numerous disease processes; treatment is based on the goals of the client as well as the needs of the pet. This lecture will look at the conditions and goals seen in a rehabilitation practice and how we can incorporate herbs into the plan. | Classroom |
| 12:30-2:00 | Lunch | | |

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| 2:00-3:00 | Personal Wellness: The Wellness Wheel | We will go through the Wellness Wheel, which is a self-assessment of our lifestyle and wellbeing. We will explain all the pieces and how the assessment brings awareness to many aspects of our lives. | Classroom |
| 3:00-3:30 | Closing | | Classroom |

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Module IV: March 15-17, 2025

| Date and Time | Topic | Description | Location |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| Saturday, March 15 8:00-8:30 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:30-9:00 | Morning Intention, Rejoining after break | | Classroom |
| 9:00-10:30 | Lecture: Introduction to Botany | Immerse yourself into the plant world and become reacquainted with major plant families and key characteristics for identification. Hone your botany skills by observing and recording leaf, flower, and fruit types. Discover the role these plants play in the daily lives of those who use them. This will be a tactile lecture in the Garden. | Lowood Garden |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-1:00 | Virtual Herb Walk: Wild Weeds Cooking | This virtual herb walk will teach us about the many nutritious and cleansing early spring greens. In this lab, we will learn about these fresh herbs and then learn to prepare them in a variety of ways. Bring your appetite! | Kitchen Classroom |
| 1:00-2:30 | Lunch | | |
| 2:30-3:30 | Lecture: Dermatology is More Than Skin Deep | This lecture will review the structure and function of the skin. Common clinical presentations will be discussed. How we can utilize herbs in treatment of these disease states will be explained. | Classroom |
| 3:30-4:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 4:00-5:00 | Lecture: Phytopharmacology I | This 2-part lecture will go through the chemistry of herbs and their constituents. It will help the student identify the use of an herb by its taste and energetics. Students will sample herbs that embody each constituent group. Lastly, we will talk about the chemicals that make foods certain colors and the health benefits of each. | Classroom |
| Sunday, March 16 7:5-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: Dermatology | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the skin will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-12:30 | Student Herb Walk Presentations and Tinctures | 2-3 herb walk presentations and tincture homework sampling | Classroom |
| 12:30-2:00 | Lunch | | |

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| 2:00-4:00 | Lab: Oils and Salves | In this lab, we will start by making herb-infused oils. Demonstrated methods to prepare oils will include solar infusions, the crockpot method, and the double boiler method. Other methods will be explained. The lab will continue with salve-making from the herbal oils. We will also create lotion, lip balm, lotion bars and salt scrubs. Lastly, we will demonstrate adding tinctures to lotions for topical use. | Kitchen Classroom |
| 4:00-6:00 | Dinner Break | | |
| 6:00-8:00 | Movie Night | <i>Juliette of the Herbs</i> – with desserts | Classroom |
| Monday, March 17 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: Urinary | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the urinary system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-1:00 | Lecture: The Scent of the Plant: Essential Oils | This lecture will discuss Essential Oils. Essential Oils are a concentration of specific phytochemicals from plants. We will discuss their chemistry, extraction, safety and uses. There will be case examples. | Classroom |
| 1:00-2:30 | Lunch | | |
| 2:30-4:30 | Personal Wellness: Herbal Skin Care | Part of self-care is caring for our physical bodies. Our skin is both our largest organ and also a major organ of detoxification. Therefore, good skin care is a big part of good health. We will be using the products made in the oils and salves lab along with others provided to detoxify and nourish our faces. There will be a brief presentation on other skin care products and their uses. | Kitchen Classroom |
| 4:30-5:00 | Closing | | Classroom |

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Module V: April 12-14, 2025

| Date and Time | Topic | Description | Location |
|--|--|--|-----------------|
| Saturday, April 12 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Opening and Intention | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | MM: Reproduction | Monographs of 8-12 herbs for the reproductive system will be presented. There will also be an organoleptic component to this lecture, with tasting of the herbs dried, in tea and in tincture forms. Fresh herbs will be shared when available. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 11:00-12:00 | Lecture: Phytopharmacology: Part II | This 2-part lecture will go through the chemistry of herbs and their constituents. It will help the student identify the use of an herb by its taste and energetics. Students will sample herbs that embody each constituent group. Lastly, we will talk about the chemicals that make foods certain colors and the health benefits of each. | Classroom |
| 12:00-1:30 | Lunch | | |
| 1:30-3:00 | Student Herb Walk Presentations and Oil/Salves | 2-3 herb walk presentations and exhibition of oil and salve homework | Classroom |
| 3:00-3:30 | Break | Guided stretching available | |
| 3:30-5:00 | Lecture: Meditations in Nature | In this lecture, we will discuss the benefits of spending time with plants in their natural environment. This can be as simple as sitting your porch or in a park learning about the plants around you. Observation of plants throughout the year not only enhances our knowledge of the plant, but also provides vital self-care time. | Classroom |
| Sunday, April 13 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | Lecture: Cancer Theory with Herbal Support | The herbal approach to cancer therapy focuses on helping the body to heal itself through immune and antioxidant support in addition to using the anti-neoplastic properties of many plants. Creation of individualized supportive herbal formulas using traditional and scientific knowledge will be covered. Classic anti-neoplastic formulas will be discussed with a Materia Medica-based explanation of the herbs in the formulas. Cases using classic and individualized treatment protocols will be presented. | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | |

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| 11:00-1:00 | Lecture/MM: The Magic and Materia Medica of Mushrooms | Mushrooms are a valuable part of our world and powerful medicine. Learn how to incorporate mushrooms into your clinical practice. Materia Medica of select mushrooms will be presented. | Classroom |
| 1:00-2:30 | Lunch | | |
| 2:30-3:30 | Drive to Carova Beach Park | | Van |
| 3:30-5:00 | Herb Walk | Carova Beach is the home of the Corolla Wild Horses, who live in harmony with both nature and humans. We will explore this environment and the flora that both supports the land and the horses. There will be opportunities for tasting many wild edible plants, medicinal, delicious and both! | Carova Beach Park |
| 5:00-6:00 | Return to Lowood | | Van |
| Monday, April 14 7:50-8:20 | Breakfast | | Breakfast Nook |
| 8:20-8:30 | Morning Gratitude | | Classroom |
| 8:30-10:30 | Forum: Cases | Students send their cases in advance and we will work them up and discuss | Classroom |
| 10:30-11:00 | Break | Guided stretching available | Classroom |
| 11:00-12:00 | Quiz: Name That Herb | This will be a fun way to review what you have learned about herbs over the last 6 months! There will be prizes! | Classroom |
| 12:00-12:30 | Break | Students will prep for Medicine Show | Classroom |
| 12:30-3:00 | Catered Lunch, Student Medicine Show and Graduation | Student Medicine Show and Graduation Ceremony | Classroom |
| 3:00-5:00 | Final Party | Families and friends welcome | Lowood |