

Cloud Ridge Naturalists

FIELD DISCOVERY SEMINARS

2014

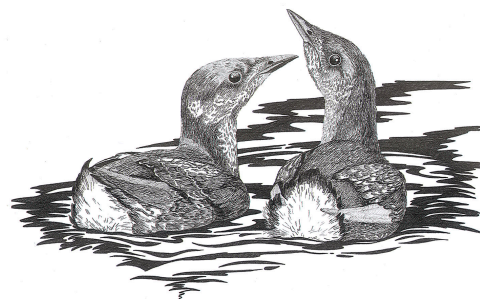
A WORD ABOUT US

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is one of the oldest and most respected nonprofit environmental education programs in North America. Over the more than three decades, several thousand people have experienced the special blend of natural history education and exploration that Cloud Ridge offers. Moving beyond the “last great place” model that drives traditional ecotourism and adventure travel programs remains a key component of our mission. Now in our fourth decade, we continue to provide learning opportunities that inspire and enable our participants to become better-informed stewards—not just “snapshot” sojourners of the natural world. Our educational vision embraces a multidisciplinary perspective well grounded in state-of-the-art science. Just a glance through the biographies of our leaders and guest lecturers should convey the excellence and dedication they bring to everything we do—their expertise and passion for teaching is unsurpassed!

Our travels take us to some of the world’s most beautiful wilderness areas—enjoying the wonder but acknowledging that the impacts of global climate change and human-caused environmental degradation transcend international and ecological boundaries. We minimize our travel footprint wherever we go—by small ship, boat, raft, sea kayak, or on foot—and work only with outfitters and guides whose operating principles and environmental ethics parallel our own. Your safety, comfort, and enjoyment are of upmost importance to us—even in the most remote field settings. Our groups are kept small and congenial, creating the best possible atmosphere for learning and discussion. We select classic lodging, boats, or campsites that have a strong sense of place. More than 80% of our participants each year have traveled with us before. That matters to us! We look forward to welcoming new friends and old.

A SEA CHANGE...

The phrase *sea change* best describes Cloud Ridge’s shift in focus to the conservation challenges facing the global ocean realm. But what does the term “global ocean” mean—and why should we care? The world’s five ocean basins—the Pacific, Atlantic, Southern, Indian and Arctic oceans—are interconnected by major surface and deep-water currents in a circulation system that creates a single body of water that covers more than 70 percent of the earth’s surface. The future of all marine life is entrained in this great ocean “conveyor belt” system—in essence, our sole life-support system on Earth. The global ocean is the world’s largest wilderness, with a lineage of life three billion years older than anything above sea level. It is home to wildlife in staggering multi-species aggregations, and its three-dimensional realm is believed to comprise 99 percent of all habitable space. Equally astounding is the fact that a single ounce of seawater is home to as many as 30 billion micro-organisms. The last two hundred years have seen marine habitats around the world destroyed or transformed beyond recognition. We know that at least 75 percent of the global ocean’s megafauna—large animals such as whales, seals, dolphins, porpoises, sharks, rays, and turtles—have been lost largely due to relentless commercial fishing and hunting.



Marbled murrelets
(MH)

A Sea Change continues...

Marine scientists estimate that 90 percent of the world's biodiversity once resided in the global ocean—and we now know that human actions have degraded ocean ecosystems more in the last thirty years than in all of human history. Cloud Ridge participants have seen dramatic examples of these changes firsthand on our Arctic and Antarctic voyages. Results of the Census of Marine Life, a monumental 10-year study undertaken by thousands of scientists to assess the diversity, distribution, and status of the global ocean's marine life, raised warning flags that can no longer be ignored. The consequences of inaction are truly profound. We believe that by focusing Cloud Ridge Naturalists' educational outreach and research support efforts on a better understanding of the deep interconnections that exist between global climate, the oceans, and all terrestrial ecosystems we make a difference—and inspire the next generation of ocean stewards!

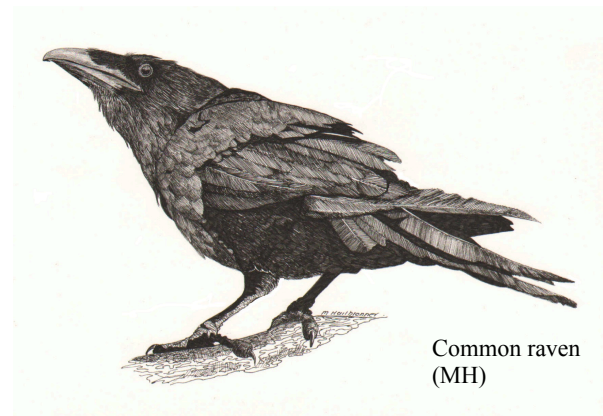
CONSERVATION IN FOCUS SERIES

"The ocean is our blind spot...

Ever since the first humans gazed, awed, out to sea, we have held certain truths to be self-evident: that the ocean is infinite, inexhaustible, boundlessly tolerant of whatever abuse we hurl at it. Wrong."

Julia Whitty, writing in NRDC's *OnEarth*
(<http://www.onearth.org/12spr>)

The marine world, at least beyond the surf zone, is out of sight and out of mind for many people. Each **Conservation in Focus** voyage—Cloud Ridge's unique "classroom afloat"—embodies the true spirit of expeditionary discovery and is designed to expand your understanding of the intricate linkage between marine and terrestrial ecosystems and to offer opportunities for exploring the global ocean realm. Our multi-disciplinary staff includes Audrey Benedict, Geoff Hammerson, Sarah Drummond, Jennifer Hahn, Marilyn Hailbronner, and the conservation photography team of Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil. Guest researchers frequently join to share their discoveries. All of our leaders dedicate their expertise to portraying the inherent beauty of the natural world as well as the environmental dramas that threaten the fragile fabric of life.



Common raven
(MH)

WHAT WE DO DURING A VOYAGE...

Whether you are interested in conservation issues close to home or in the most remote corners of our changing planet, learning new ways to tell a compelling "natural history story" or to share your observations of the natural world with others helps sharpen the focus on conservation issues. Delivering a strong conservation message requires a thorough understanding of your subject—but also the knowledge that environmental threats to the global ocean realm matter to all of us. We'll portray the intricate complexity of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems but also learn what scientists are discovering and doing about the far-reaching ramifications of global warming, ocean acidification, the thinning and disappearance of polar sea ice, the effects of overfishing on seabird and sea mammal populations, and the ways in which the immense mid-ocean gyres, as swirl in plastic detritus, are impacting the entire marine food chain. Each voyage opens new windows on the natural world as well as opportunities to master the creative, technical, and presentation skills necessary to make visual media—both photography and art—more powerful tools for conservation. Long before the camera became a standard piece of field equipment, expedition naturalists kept illustrated field journals in which to record their discoveries and observations. Working together, naturalists, photographers and artists continue to play crucial roles in creating a constituency for conservation. After each voyage, we'll produce a book that reflects what we've learned and that can be shared with others—a visual memoir that truly captures the essence of place, the many fascinating adaptations of marine plants and animals, key conservation issues and current research, as well as human endeavors that are marine resource-wise and sustainable.

CONSERVATION IN FOCUS (1): A NATURALIST'S VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY TO SOUTHEAST ALASKA

July 18-27, 2014 10 Days/9 Nights

**Dr. Geoff Hammerson, Audrey Benedict,
Bob Rozinski & Wendy Shattil,
Sarah Drummond and the *M/V Catalyst* Crew**

Few places in North America rival the scenic beauty and wildlife richness of Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage. Join us aboard our "classroom afloat"—the *M/V Catalyst*—as we explore the remote islands, spectacular fjords, tidewater glaciers, and old-growth forests of this remarkable coastal wilderness. The *Catalyst*, a 76-foot-long classic wooden boat built in 1932 as the floating laboratory for the University of Washington, provides the perfect setting for our **Conservation in Focus** voyages. I've often wondered if it might be the heartbeat of the *Catalyst*'s 17,000-pound iron engine that generates the mysterious bond that passengers feel at the end of a voyage.

Whatever her secret, this salty historic treasure has been lovingly restored by her Pacific Catalyst owner, Captain Bill Bailey. She carries 12 passengers in sublime comfort and is equipped with a full complement of double sea kayaks and a motorized inflatable to enable explorations both near and far to cascading waterfalls and glaciers and on hikes through pristine rainforests. The use of sea kayaks allows us a special seal's-eye view of the marine world. Beginning sea kayakers will find this an ideal setting in which to learn. Unlike big cruise ships, the *Catalyst* is trim enough to explore the narrowest of fjords, slipping quietly past electric blue icebergs. Each evening, as we feast on yet another superb dinner of sustainably harvested seafood and share the day's discoveries, there is little doubt that there is no better way to experience Southeast Alaska.

This year's voyage begins in Petersburg, Alaska, and will include Thomas Bay and a visit to the Baird Glacier, Frederick Sound, the Brothers Islands, Endicott Arm, the fjord magic of Ford's Terror, and Dawes Glacier, one of the southernmost of the tidewater glaciers. As is typical of the myriad photographic and natural history opportunities that await you on any of our *Catalyst* voyages in Southeast Alaska, we should see both brown and black bears, Steller sea lions at their haul-outs, harbor seals and their pups, bald eagles,

post-breeding aggregations of harlequin ducks, and fascinating seabirds, such as the marbled murrelet and pigeon guillemot. Timing for this year's trip places special emphasis on humpback whale biology and behavioral ecology and coincides with the beginning of intensified humpback whale foraging activities in Frederick Sound. If lucky, we may observe the spectacular bouts of synchronized lunge-feeding behavior that occurs when groups of humpbacks work cooperatively to entrap schools of small fish or krill through the creation of a near-surface "bubble net," which serves to disorient their prey. With the "net" in place, the humpbacks lunge upwards, mouths agape, engulfing thousands of small prey fish.



Diving humpback whale (MH)

In addition to exploring the natural history of Southeast Alaska, we'll discuss the impact that global warming is having on the region's glaciers and how changes in prevailing ocean currents may affect the populations of small fish that marine mammals and seabirds depend on for food. We'll also offer mini-workshops that help you hone your skills in portraying the world around you in a more compelling way—either through photography or art. Our goal is to create a book based on our shared experiences and observations that truly captures the essence of Southeast Alaska—as well as the challenges looming on the horizon.

Price: \$4,500 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price Includes: 6 nights/7 days aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, all meals and beverages (including wine and beer), 2 nights' lodging in Petersburg (July 18 and 19), and 1 night's lodging in Juneau (July 26), 3 group dinners ashore, the services of our 5 leaders (naturalists and photographers), the *Catalyst*'s 4-person crew, full sea kayak outfitting and expert instruction, gratuities to the *Catalyst*'s crew, boat/hotel transfers, and a copy of the photo book. Please note that the *Catalyst* has only one single-berth cabin. The price quoted is *per person* based on double occupancy; a single supplement of \$450 is required of participants preferring non-shared hotel accommodations. **Does not include** roundtrip airfare from your point of departure to Petersburg, Alaska, on July 18 or your return flight from Juneau on July 27.

CONSERVATION IN FOCUS (2): THE SALISH SEA & SAN JUAN ISLANDS

September 28-October 5, 2014 8 Days/7 Nights
Jenny Hahn, Dr. Geoff Hammerson, Audrey Benedict, Bob Rozinski & Wendy Shattil, Sarah Drummond and the *M/V Catalyst* Crew

Thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived in the Pacific Northwest, the Coast Salish people flourished along the shores of one of the most biologically rich inland seas in the world—now known as the Salish Sea. Named in honor of those first inhabitants, the Salish Sea straddles the Canadian border and includes the marine waters of Washington's Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands, and British Columbia's Gulf Islands and the Strait of Georgia. Connected to the Pacific Ocean primarily via the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Salish Sea receives an almost constant influx of nutrient-rich freshwater from British Columbia's Fraser River, the Skagit, and the many smaller rivers of Washington's mainland—all of which provide essential building blocks for the region's extraordinary biodiversity. The strong currents and extreme tidal exchanges that typify the Salish Sea create optimal conditions for nutrient upwelling and for the proliferation of the photosynthetic plankton that forms the basis of the marine food chain.

Life in the San Juan Archipelago is governed by the sea's rhythms—its extraordinary biological richness attributed to the rain shadow cast by the Olympic Mountains and the greater diversity of habitats available to plants and animals in these islands than occurs along the wetter mainland coast. Not surprisingly, the marine waters surrounding the San Juan Islands provide critical habitat for marine mammals such as migrating gray whales, both resident and "transient" populations of orcas, harbor seals, Steller and California sea lions, and river otters. More than 165 species of birds depend on the Salish Sea and adjacent terrestrial habitats for their survival. Many of the overwintering seabirds and sea ducks we'll see—the murrelets, guillemots, murres, rhinoceros auklets, scoters, and harlequin ducks—will have recently

arrived from their North Pacific breeding areas. All seven species of Pacific salmon, including rainbow/steelhead and coastal cutthroat, occur in the Salish Sea. Both near-shore and deep-water habitats are also home to several "giants" of the marine world, including the North Pacific giant octopus, plumose anemone, giant red sea urchin, and the geoduck, largest of the burrowing clams.

Today, nearly 8 million people live on the islands and in the mainland watersheds that nourish the Salish Sea on both sides of the international border. The impacts of a burgeoning population, global warming, ocean acidification, as well as pressures related to commercial fisheries, fish and shellfish farming, and the looming threat of a major coal shipping port at Cherry Point pose significant environmental challenges for the future. Many scientists and citizen groups are doing all they can to secure the environmental health of the Salish Sea and to ensure that the sea-based livelihoods that have been so important historically to the people of the Pacific Northwest are able to adapt to change with practices that promote environmental sustainability.

Once again, our "classroom afloat" is the superbly comfortable *M/V Catalyst*, a 76-foot lovingly restored wooden boat built in 1932 as the floating laboratory for the University of Washington.

Jenny Hahn, one of the Northwest's foremost naturalists and an award-winning author, joins our team of naturalists and photographers at the helm. She'll share her knowledge of the Coast Salish and the edible delights to be found at the sea's edge. Guest scientists for this voyage include Russel Barsh and Madrona Murphy, founders of Kwiáht, the Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea, and Dr. Joe Gaydos, Chief Scientist for the Orcas Island-based SeaDoc Society's marine research and conservation program. Moving beyond the familiar intertidal zone, Joe and his dive team will conduct their third "virtual dive" for us—transmitting live coverage of the deep-sea world to a big-screen TV aboard the *Catalyst* for us all to enjoy—no wet suit required!



River otter (MH)

Working together, we'll create a book of images and drawings that truly captures the magical essence of the Salish Sea and all that we've seen—sharing our observations and as well as a better understanding of the marine world and the environmental challenges that loom on the horizon. Be inspired and learn how you can make a difference!

Price: \$2,550 (includes a \$500 deposit)

Group Size: 12 Trip Rating: 2-3

Price Includes: 5 nights/6 days aboard the *M/V Catalyst*, all meals and beverages (including wine and beer), 2 nights' lodging (September 28 and October 4) in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, 2 group dinners ashore, all instruction by our leaders, guest lecturers, full sea kayak outfitting, *Catalyst's* 4-person crew, gratuities to the crew, a copy of our group-produced photo book, and a copy of Jenny's *Pacific Feast*. The price quoted is *per person* based on double occupancy. Please note that the *Catalyst* has only one single-berth cabin. A single supplement of \$350 is required of any participant preferring non-shared hotel accommodations or for whom we have no roommate. **Does not include** roundtrip airfare or travel from your point of departure on September 28 to Friday Harbor, San Juan Island. This seminar begins with dinner and lodging in Friday Harbor on September 28 and concludes with dinner and lodging in Friday Harbor on October 4. Travel home or to other destinations may be scheduled for the morning of October 5th.

Need more information? Visit the **Pacific Catalyst** website at www.pacificcatalyst.com for boat pictures, cabin details, interior spaces and amenities, and crew biographies.



River otters (MH)

CLOUD RIDGE STAFF & GUEST LEADERS

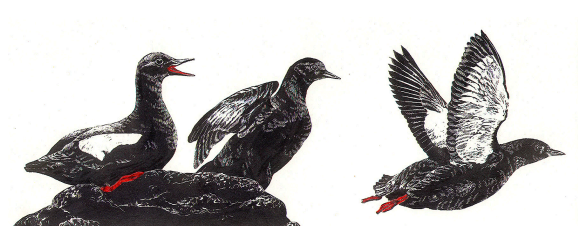
Audrey Benedict is the Founder and Director of Cloud Ridge Naturalists and the Founder and Publisher of Cloud Ridge Publishing. Her training in geology and biology inspired a 44-year love affair with high mountains and the global ocean realm that has taken her from the Arctic to the Antarctic, as well as up and down the North and South American Cordillera. Audrey is the author of the definitive *The Naturalist's Guide to the Southern Rockies: Southern Wyoming, Colorado, and Northern New Mexico* and *Valley of the Dunes: Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve*, the latter book in collaboration with photographers Bob Rozinski and Wendy Shattil. Audrey serves on the SeaDoc Society's Board of Directors and is currently co-authoring a book on the Salish Sea with Dr. Joe Gaydos. Excited about being more actively involved in ocean conservation, Audrey now divides her time between her Colorado mountain home near the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and her tiny off-grid retreat on Frost Island in the San Juan Islands.

Dr. Geoff Hammerson is Senior Research Zoologist for NatureServe and lives in Port Townsend, WA. Geoff is the lead biologist on Cloud Ridge's naturalist team, helping design and guide our field discovery program around the world. He is the author of the definitive field guide *Amphibians and Reptiles in Colorado*, as well as *Connecticut Wildlife*. Geoff and his river colleagues are currently completing their much-anticipated book on the natural history of Colorado's Yampa River. A superb zoologist, Geoff is always adding new dimensions to his natural history expertise. He's a popular instructor wherever he goes, teaching field biology and ecology at Wesleyan University and other institutions. Geoff is best known for his remarkable talent for coaxing the most reluctant animal to share its secrets with an appreciative audience.

Bob Rozinski & Wendy Shattil are the rarest of species—full-time professional nature photographers. They've worked individually and as a team for more than 30 years and are known world-wide for their award-winning images and reputations as environmental photographers of endangered species and at-risk ecosystems throughout North America. Fellows of the International League of Conservation Photographers, Bob and Wendy have produced twelve

books, and their images have appeared in *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, *Nature Conservancy*, *BBC Wildlife*, *Nature's Best*, *National Geographic* publications, and many others. Dedicated to developing new ways of illuminating key conservation issues, Bob and Wendy are superb teachers and generous in sharing their expertise. To see more of their photographic work, visit their website: www.dancingpelican.com

Jennifer Hahn, a naturalist, writer, illustrator, teacher, wild harvester, and coastal traveler, has 30 years of wilderness travel experience, including guiding natural history trips by sea kayak in the San Juan Islands for 22 years and many seasons guiding in Southeast Alaska. She is the author of two books: the award-winning *Spirited Waters: Soloing South Through the Inside Passage*, based on her solo-kayak from Southeast Alaska to Washington, and *Pacific Feast: A Cook's Guide to West Coast Foraging and Cuisine*. Jenny teaches courses in wild foraging, indigenous plant uses, and seaweed biology as an adjunct professor at Western Washington University's Fairhaven College and other institutions. The expertise, poetic voice, and infectious enthusiasm Jenny brings to her natural history teaching is a rare gift. To learn more about Jenny's books and wild harvesting, visit: www.pacificfeast.com



Pigeon guillemots (SD)

Sarah Drummond is a naturalist and an artist who grew up traveling with Cloud Ridge and is now a member of our naturalist staff. She received her B.A. from Maine's College of the Atlantic, where her studies emphasized ecology, island ecosystems and art; her M.A. is from Arizona's Prescott College. Research for her thesis on the role and impact of artists who accompanied major exploring expeditions prior to the invention of photography began during a Watson Foundation fellowship and became the focus of a forthcoming book. Sarah also creates books for children, most recently *Raven and the Red Ball*, from Pomegranate Books. Sarah is an adjunct faculty

member at College of the Atlantic and teaches art and natural history. She spends her summers as a naturalist/kayak guide in Southeast Alaska aboard the *M/V Catalyst*. Sarah's artwork celebrates the beauty and diversity of the natural world and she prides herself on working directly from life, in the field, whenever possible. To see more of her artwork, visit her website: www.sarahdrummondart.com

Marilyn Hailbronner's drawings—rendered in pen and ink, scratchboard technique, and color wash—grace Cloud Ridge's brochure and website. She serves as a member of Cloud Ridge's naturalist staff and also our advisor on wilderness travel and medical issues. Summers often find Marilyn working aboard the *M/V Sea Wolf* as a naturalist/kayak guide in Glacier Bay. Her work as a naturalist artist is a reflection of her love for the natural world and her passion for conservation, which takes her to wilderness areas around the world. Among many projects, she is currently working on a children's book on the Magellanic penguins of Argentina's Peninsula Valdés. To see more of Marilyn's artwork, visit her website: www.wildinkwell.com

Dr. Joe Gaydos lives on Orcas Island with his family and is a wildlife veterinarian and Chief Scientist for the SeaDoc Society, a nonprofit science-based marine conservation program of the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine/Wildlife Health Center. For more than a decade, Joe has focused SeaDoc's research efforts on the ecosystem-level challenges facing the Salish Sea and has worked to improve management and policy decisions regarding the stewardship of those resources. He's published extensively on shared human and marine wildlife health issues for such species as harbor seals, river otters, and killer whales. Joe's passion for connecting people to the magic and vulnerability of the marine world is legendary, whether through his keynote addresses, lectures, field teaching, or the gift of one of his infamous "virtual dives."

Russel Barsh spent his boyhood on Long Island Sound as a devoted beachcomber and fossil-hunter. As a doctoral student in paleontology at Harvard, Russel was privileged to study under the late Dr. Loren Eiseley and Dr. Stephen Jay Gould—each a role model in multidisciplinary science. His friendships with Native Americans opened his eyes to new science challenges,

convincing him to get a law degree and to defend the environmental integrity of traditional cultures. Russel taught at the University of Washington and helped develop its American Indian Studies Center. He then served as an advisor to United Nations agencies on indigenous and tribal peoples living in sensitive ecosystems, establishing the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Russel co-founded Kwiáht (Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea) at the urging of his longtime friend and Samish Tribal leader, the late Ken Hanson. "Kwiáht" means "a clean place" in the Native American language of the Central Sound—a one-word mission statement embracing the use of science to inform and promote good stewardship of cultural and biological resources in the San Juan Archipelago. Now based on Lopez Island, Russel and staff scientists, student interns, and dedicated volunteers manage the San Juan Islands Marine Health Monitoring Network and school programs meant to inspire young stewards.

Madrona Murphy is a native Lopezian, whose love for the San Juan Islands eventually brought her back to Lopez Island after she earned a degree in botany and political science from Oregon's Reed College. With a special interest in plant genetics, she worked as a technician at the University of Washington's Center for Cell Dynamics at Friday Harbor Laboratories before establishing and managing Kwiáht's genotyping laboratory. Madrona capitalizes on her knowledge of how indigenous peoples used the land and shaped the ecosystems that we see today to inform her botanical surveys and her design of restoration projects. Her genetic population studies include work on local salmon, coastal cutthroat trout, camas, small mammals, and the rare Island Marble butterfly.

GLOBAL OCEAN CONSERVATION SUPPORT

To support organizations involved in global ocean conservation, we can recommend the following:

- ❖ **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**
www.nrdc.org and www.onearth.org
- ❖ **The SeaDoc Society** (nonprofit program/UC Davis Veterinary Medicine/Wildlife Health Center)
www.seadocsociety.org
- ❖ **Kwiáht: Center for the Historical Ecology of the Salish Sea** www.kwiaht.org

NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CLOUD RIDGE NATURALISTS?

Visit our website at www.CloudRidge.org for photos of our 2014 destinations, our annual Field Notes post, archived descriptions and images from previous trips, slideshows and video clips from our adventures afield, and the latest offerings from Cloud Ridge Publishing. Or email us directly at: clouderidgeadb@earthlink.net

A WORD ABOUT EXPEDITION TRAVEL

Our expeditions are rated to assist you in choosing the trip that's right for you. Because of the moderate agility required on most expeditionary-class ships, the *M/V Catalyst*, in sea kayaks, in skiffs or Zodiacs, or on raft-based trips, participants with significant medical issues—physical disabilities, wheelchair-confinement, chronic heart disease and/or severe respiratory illnesses requiring supplemental oxygen, or any other known and potentially debilitating medical conditions—are advised **NOT** to register for these trips. By forwarding the registration form and your deposit, you are certifying that you are in good physical health and capable of performing all normal activities without assistance.

(1) EASY: Hotel, lodge, ship, or small boat-based trips, no camping, hikes of up to 2 miles, and minimal exposure to high elevations.

(2) EASY TO MODERATE: Lodge, ship, or camping based, hikes of 2-4 miles, optional sea kayaking, small plane travel, and moderate elevation gains.

(3) MODERATE TO STRENUOUS: Expedition ship, small plane, small boat or raft-based, remote wilderness localities, possible primitive camping, and trail or off-trail hikes of up to 6-8 miles, at elevation.

(4) STRENUOUS: Expeditionary and rugged in nature, primitive camping, full-day hikes in steep mountainous terrain, as well as possible sea kayaking or whitewater rafting.

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

To register for one of Cloud Ridge's seminars, fill out the registration form and send it to us, along with your **non-refundable** deposit. In the event a trip is full, we'll add your name to a wait-list and promptly return your deposit. The balance of all tour fees is due **90 days** prior to the trip departure date, unless otherwise noted or unless other arrangements have been made. Registrations received **within 90 days** of departure must include payment in full.

TRIP CANCELLATION & TRAVEL INSURANCE

To protect your travel investment in the event of illness or injury to you or to a family member prior to or during a trip, we **strongly advise** that all participants purchase trip insurance, including a **trip cancellation/interruption policy** and/or **emergency medical evacuation coverage**. All international expedition outfitters **require** medical emergency/evacuation coverage. Emergency evacuation from remote wilderness areas is expensive and not included in standard medical insurance policies. Participants covered by Medicare are advised that Medicare does not provide coverage for individuals traveling outside the U.S. ***Don't leave home without it!***

OUR CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be made in writing. Because we must send payments to our travel suppliers well in advance of our departures, we cannot offer refunds beyond those described below. We appreciate your understanding! Cancellation refunds are made according to the following schedule:

- ◆ Cancellation received **90 days or more** prior to a trip's departure, all trip costs, less the deposit, will be refunded. The deposit will also be refunded if we are able to fill your space from a wait-list.
- ◆ Cancellation received **less than 90 days** prior to departure, no refund is possible unless we can fill your space from a wait-list.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Cloud Ridge Naturalists is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c) 3 organization providing educational opportunities in the natural sciences and financial support to entities and individuals conducting research in critical areas of conservation concern. You can become a **Supporter** (\$25) or a **Sponsor** (\$50 or more). We welcome your donations with gratitude. All contributions help support our conservation mission!

BROCHURE CREDITS: Brochure design and text by **Audrey Benedict**. Editing by **Alice Levine**. Brochure and website artwork by **Marilyn Hailbronner** and **Sarah Drummond**. Cloud Ridge's sage grouse logo by **Barbara Bash**. Website photography by **Audrey Benedict**, **Bob Rozinski** & **Wendy Shattil**, **Geoff Hammerson**. Website design by **Clyde Lovett** (www.crestonecreations.com)

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