**Biomimicry Workshop 2012**

**Class 1:** Watch Dayna’s Bioneer video as introduction to biomimicry

Overview of class goals and processes.

**Intent of Class:** Introduction to biomimicry, forming teams, seeing Nature as our mentor and relearning the child like way to observe Nature.

**Homework: A) form your team and B) experience nature**

A) There will be 6 homework sessions

Chose leader for each homework session, set up 2 dates/month for work sessions, decide how to meet up virtually, and get to know each other.

B) iSite exercise: First: read the articles “Getting to Know Nature” and “Secrets of Watching Wildlife.” Your ability to learn from Nature’s mentors depends upon your observation skills. Spend some time exploring by yourself to find a spot that looks good to you and a place you can visit every day. It could be a tree in a parking lot, a window box, or some remote forest site, called your iSite. If possible, visit this site at least once a day, every day, ideally at different times and under different conditions. This may include dawn, dusk, mid-day, mid-night, during different weather events. Plan to stay at your iSite for about 20-30 minutes. Make observations using all of your senses and write notes and/or make sketches based on the suggestions in the articles you read.

Consider recording the following as you soak in your surroundings:

Date, Time, Location, Conditions

Here are more suggestions to enhance your experience:

* What relationships do you see?
* How about patterns? Sketch them.
* What are some adaptations (behavioral or physiological) that you see as a response to the abiotic or biotic pressures (wind, predation, rain, decay, etc.)?
* Can you see the ways that life is shaping its environment (rather than the environment shaping life?)
* Rather than asking “what is the organism doing?” ask yourself “how does this behavior fit the environment and what will the organism do next?”
* What gradients do you see?
* What boundaries/edges do you see?
* How do gradients and edges fit together?

Submit the team schedule by April 13, 2012. Be prepared to discuss your experiences at your iSite (3-4 people will be asked to volunteer to share)