

The PILGRIM Association is cordially inviting you  
to the fifth workshop of Wandering University of Nature

## **All around me lives and feels like me...**

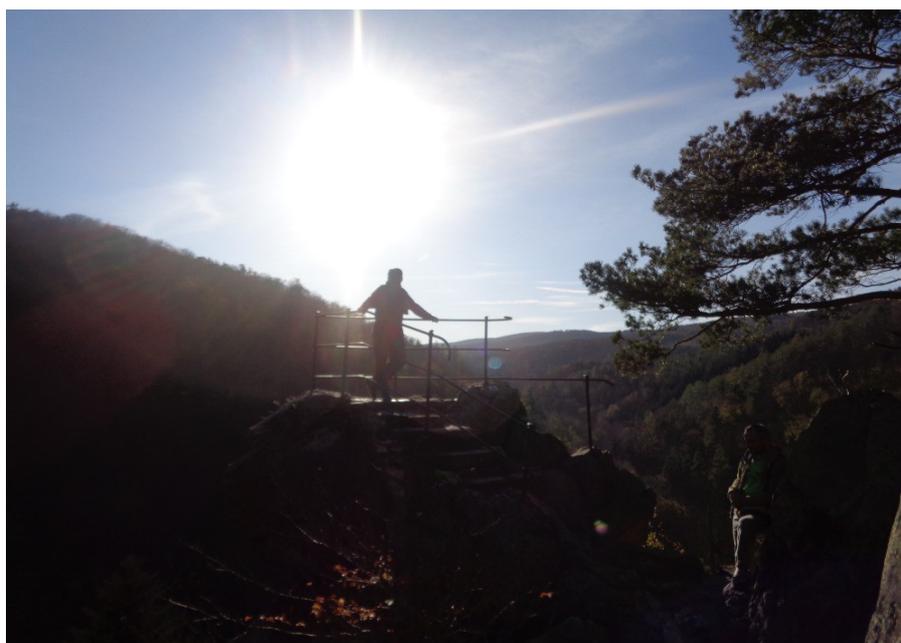
### *Finding way to the regenerative culture*

**Eco-Centre Rychleby near Javorník and Dance Hall (Tančírna) in Račí údolí**

**From Monday, August 10th to Saturday, August 15th 2020**

#### **Lecturers and collaborators:**

Stephan Martin, Johannes Heimrath – Lara Mallien, Jiří Zemánek, Luděk Čertík, Martin Nawrath, Tomáš Daněk, Pavel Janšta – Hiromi Ogata, Michal Kristýnek, Jaromír Bláha, Jan Piňos, Alena Malíková, Monika Michaelová, Jana Suchánková, Barbora Kinkalová, Tomáš Gardelka, Tomáš Hruza, Lenka Kubelová, Lucie Fryčová, Karel Čtveráček, Zdeňka Morávková-Řezbová, Hana Bernardová, Petr Lisý and more



Rychlebské hory (Golden Mountains) – Čertovy kazatelny (Devil's pulpit)

*„We are not here to control. We are here to become integral  
with the larger Earth community.“*

Thomas Berry

Today we face the challenge of how to move from ongoing devastation and degradation of living planetary systems to the new culture of regeneration and caring, which would strive for the benefit and prosperity of not only us, the humans, but of life as a whole. Cosmologist **Thomas Berry** once said that human society and the natural world will either go towards the future as one integrated collective or experience suffering

along the way. First assumption of such cultural transformation is the understanding that the Universe is not just a collection of objects, but a community of subjects, and that we as humankind are part of a living soulful world with depth and meaning, as well as structure and form. Thanks to that we can again reestablish intimate connection with nature and cosmos and begin to listen to the voices and stories of woods and mountains, rivers and rocks, spellbinding Moon and also mysterious sky full of stars and start to wonder: „Who we are? Where are we coming from?“



Rychlebské hory (Golden Mountains)

*Es war, als hätt' der Himmel / Die Erde still geküßt,  
Daß sie im Blütenschimmer / Von ihm nun träumen müßt'.  
  
Die Luft ging durch die Felder, / Die Ähren wogten sacht,  
Es rauschten leis' die Wälder, / So sternklar war die Nacht.  
  
Und meine Seele spannte / Weit ihre Flügel aus,  
Flog durch die stillen Lande, / Als flöge sie nach Haus.*

Joseph von Eichendorff

Mondnacht

Such understanding creates a room for dialogue with the world and the deep cosmos. That – in words of Australian ecophilosopher **Freya Mathews** – means, „to enter an expanded realm of eros in which self and world are mutually kindled into a larger, more incandescent state of realization.“ According to German biologist **Andreas Weber**, nature is the embodiment of desire for connection. When in touch with nature we are included in the vivid reciprocal exchange which incites our connection with other living beings, which in turn awakens our higher self and enables us to be more alive and participate in the blooming of aliveness throughout the biosphere. This paves the way to a fuller and more mature life which, according to Weber, is

the essence of true sustainability and leads us to „comprehensive compassion“ (Brian Swimme). Recognition of the subjective nature of the world will enable us to unify our desires with the desires and needs of the biosphere itself and actively participate on it's fulfillment and co-creation. This insight also brings us to much deeper understanding of the story of our origins, showing us how communication and endless connections among different subjects in the Universe formed a complicated network of close relations and symbioses, all the way from the mystery of it's beginning to this very moment, to us.

In the course of workshop we will particularly learn about following three concepts of cultural transformation – the vision of *ecozoic era* and „*The great work*“ of **Thomas Berry**, vision of *culture and politics of aliveness* (and *erotic ecology*) of German philosopher and biologist **Andreas Weber** and the praxis of *ontopoetics* created by Australian ecophilosopher **Freya Mathews**, originating from her philosophy of panpsychism. We will also touch upon the *epic of evolution* and the vision of *living cosmos* – **Stephan Martin** –, *the Gaia Hypothesis, the re-enchantment of everyday life* (Thomas Moore) and *imaginative ecology*. Together we will investigate burning questions of ecological ethics, commons, regenerative agriculture and other options of forming the regenerative culture (**Johannes Heimrath, Lara Mallien, Jaromír Bláha, Jan Piños, Alena Malíková** and others).



Rychlebské hory (Golden Mountains)

During excursions into natural surroundings we will try to develop contemplative sensory participation and communication with the living world around us – with animals and birds, plants and trees, meadows and woods, stones and rocks, creeks and rivers, sky and stars, the Sun and the Earth, the Moon and the Milky Way, with air and water, light and gravity – in order to deepen our ability to identify ourselves with all life. For that purpose we will make use of pilgrimage, Deep Time Walk, meditation, dance, singing, councils, rituals, language of myth and archetypes. The main inspiration will nevertheless be taken from poetry as one of the forms of „loving attention“ praxis. We will be developing poetic perception and try to see the world more poetically.

We will take inspiration from the life and work of some well-known poets and philosophers – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, William Wordsworth, John Keats, **Joseph von Eichendorff**, Karel Hynek Mácha,

Henry David Thoreau, **Robinson Jeffers**, Gary Snyder, **Mary Oliver**, Gregory Bateson, **David Abram**, Masanobu Fukuoka, **Freya Mathews** – their ability to listen to the world, to view the world as a speaker in the dialogue and to derive the meanings and symbols directly from the wild speech of the world. We will also remember some experiences and rituals of native cultures and also remember – as David Abram says – why it is so important today to speak „to the“ world rather than just talk „about“ it.

A special program will be dedicated to **Joseph von Eichendorff** (1788-1857), one of the last great German romantic poets. Eichendorff's unique lyric poems are characterised by musicality and masterful simplicity and many of his magical prose (such as *From a Life of a Good-For-Nothing*) were inspired by the landscape of Upper Silesia where he was born. In the final two years of his life the poet spent the summertime in the castle Jánský vrch (Jánský Hill) in Javorník. Some of the contemporary Czech poets (**Luděk Čertík, Martin Nawrath and Pavel Janšta a Hiromi Ogata**) will also introduce their work.

During the everyday walkabouts we will learn the spell of Rychleby Mountains, described by Zdeňka Morávková-Řezbová, the painter and curator of cultural programmes of Tančírna in Račí údolí, as „mountains of silence and stillness“. We will also visit Jeseník Spas. After the workshop on the Saturday afternoon of the August 15th you can join us on the following four-day pilgrimage from Račí údolí to the top of Králícký Sněžník (1424 m a.s.l.). Our guide will be **Michal Kristýnek**, geographer and guide in the Rychleby Mountains. Pilgrimage will be dedicated to the new cosmology into which we will be personally initiated by American astronomer **Stephan Martin** (invitation card to this pilgrimage will be sent separately). Some of the more adventurous pilgrims will then continue from Králícký Sněžník across Orlické hory and Broumovské stěny to the top of Sněžka (1602 m a.s.l.) in Krkonoše Mountains.

Jiří Zemánek



Tančírna (The Dance Hall) in Račí údolí (Crayfish Valley)

*„Ecosophy is neither a mere 'science of the earth' (ecology) nor even 'wisdom about the earth', but rather a 'wisdom of the earth herself' that is made manifest to man when he knows how to listen to her with love.“*

Raimon Panikkar



Rychleby Eco-Center

**Lodgings:**

V Ekocentru Rychleby (the Rychleby Eco-Center) / Bílý Potok 152,  
790 70 Javorník in Silesia / phone: 583 035 342



Janský vrch (Janský Hill) Castle in Javorník

**Publication:**

We plan to publish a short collection of thematically significant texts called *All around me lives and feels like me*. The book will include Derrick Jensen's interview with David Abram, "Really Intelligent Is the Earth," "The Enlivenment Manifesto: Politics and Poetics in the Anthropocene" by Andreas Weber and Hildegarda Kurt, as well as separate paper by Andreas Weber titled „Being Nature“, and essay "On Desiring Nature" by Freya Mathews.



Lázně Jeseník (Jeseník Spa) / The Way of Life (earth work) / Jan Šimek

### **Pilgrim – Wandering University of Nature**

Nature is not primarily a set of objects or reservoir of recoverable raw materials for us, but above all a community of soulful subjects, an eminent world that shapes, inspires, feeds and supports us, and with which we feel connected. We share Gregory Bateson's belief that in nature lies a secret to reinvigorating our human systems, to growing the health of the human community, and to healing our relationships. Today, we need to expand our intellectual knowledge „about“ nature to include direct learning „from“ nature itself, we need experience and experiences that allow us to connect intimately with nature processes.

**<http://potulnauniverzita.cz/>**

**<https://www.facebook.com/potulnauniverzita/>**



Králický Sněžník Mountains (Glatzer Schneegebirge)

### **Contacts on organisers:**

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