



“Even amidst such devastating loss of culture, languages, wild lands, and species—magic and mystery still occupy the borderlands of civilization, waiting patiently for us to remember that we don’t know everything about the nature of so-called reality, or even about our imaginative capacity to create other possibilities, other ways of being human.”

Deep Winter by Geneen Marie Haugen

“Since he means to come to a door he will come to a door”

photo by Julie Gabrielli

Willful Homing by Robert Frost

HOMING IN WINTER:

Restoring, nature, and soul for the Solstice
 December 13-15, 2019 at Rolling Ridge
 near Harpers Ferry, WV

With Lindsay McLaughlin,
 Julie Gabrielli, Lisa Bardack,
 and Katy Gaughan

Solstice, meaning “sun stands still,” in winter marks the moment when deepest night lingers over the Earth’s northern hemisphere as the sun seems to pause at its lowest point in the timeless cycle of light and dark. Our ancestors knew in their bones the sacredness of this time. They entreated the sun to move again, heralding the light and warmth of spring, even as they relished the revelatory dark.

This sense has slipped away from us in our modern hustle and bustle and has been profoundly lost to us amid the collapse of both nature and culture. Yet the solstice can be a holy opportunity to stand still for a moment and recapture our connection to the slowly wheeling heavens, and to the blessed dreaming Earth; it can be an invitation to come home to ourselves and our belonging.

Once we lived by the cycles and seasons, and they lived in us. They comforted us, shook us, reassured us, taught us. On this retreat we reweave our connection to cycles and seasons, to Earth and Heavens and Mystery. Through restoring (the practice of listening to inner whispers and ancient tales and to the stories we hear in the wild around us) we may find our way home again.

We wander in solitude in the mystical, enchanted forest, seeking to be met by bare-branched oak, hawk and owl, frozen stream. We attend to the dreams that sing to us in the long nights. We gather for ceremony, for sacred dance, drumming and song, and for circles of shared wisdom.



Meditation Shelter,
 Rolling Ridge Study Retreat

The retreat takes place at Rolling Ridge, more than a thousand acres of sacred forest on a small mountain between the Appalachian Trail and the Shenandoah River, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge. Our simple, cozy, and lovely Retreat House has seven bedrooms. Meals are lovingly prepared by the Rolling Ridge community from locally sourced, fresh ingredients. Access to Rolling Ridge is by car or truck only.

The retreat begins at 5 pm Friday (includes dinner) and concludes with lunch on Sunday (departure by 3 pm). Early arrival on Friday (beginning at 2 pm) is encouraged.

Cost for the retreat is \$299 (includes lodging, six meals, and program.) For \$249 register together and share a room. Information and registration at www.rollingridge.net.