

LEARNING THE SEDGES, RUSHES, AND GRASSES

Course Instructor: John J. Mack
Course location: Hiram College, Ohio and nearby sites
Cost: \$895.00 (\$795 government)
Dates: June 25-26, July 9-10, July 23-24

Description. Despite their abundance and critical importance in wetland ecosystems, little training is available in the identification of sedges (Cyperaceae), rushes (Juncaceae) and grasses (Poaceae). Training that is available does not lend itself to gaining facility in learning the morphology and taxonomic keys of these difficult groups but usually consists of 2 or 3 consecutive days with too many species presented in too short a time for real learning. A simplified sedge key developed for the Midwest will be provided and used.

This is an intensive, field course on the identification of sedges, rushes, and grasses typically found in wetlands of the midwest and northeast. This course spreads the learning process over six weeks and six classes and stresses learning key morphological features to use taxonomic keys so that the student can identify unknown sedges, rushes, or grasses in the future. Course members will learn the most commonly encountered wetland graminoids and as opportunity permits, other wetland species. Except for lectures on June 24-25, all sessions will be in the field and will involve collecting and keying for constant practice with taxonomic keys.

Texts and equipment. Students are responsible for bringing the following texts to the class: *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, 2nd Edition, (Gleason and Cronquist 1991); *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's. Manual* (Holmgren et al. 1998) (These can be purchased as a set for \$150 directly from the publisher (New York Botanical Garden Press) by calling 718-817-8957) and *How to Identify Grasses and Grasslike Plants* (Harrington 1977). Students should also have a 10x handlens, preferable a Hastings Triplet. A plant press will be useful but is not required.

Location: The course will be taught at the James H. Barrow Field Station of Hiram College, Hiram, Ohio, and at other high quality wetland and upland habitats located nearby. The field station has numerous wetlands and the largest remaining old growth beech-maple forest in Ohio. Hiram is located in Portage County and is home to the Cuyahoga State Scenic River and numerous fens, bogs, vernal pools, forests, and beaver marshes. Hiram is only 10 minutes from Ohio Turnpike (I80) exit 193 and less than 45 minutes from the Cleveland-Hopkins Airport.

Lodging: Lodging is available on campus (contact rosejp@hiram.edu), B&B's in Hiram (<http://www.hiram.edu/visitors/gettingtohiram.html>), in nearby Streetsboro (<http://streetsborooh.cu.myareaguide.com/hotels.html>) and Punderson State Park (<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/parks/parks/punderson.htm>) in Newbury. Go to <http://www.hiram.edu/visitors/gettingtohiram.html> for information on local food and lodging. Lunch is available at the Hiram Food Court <http://home.hiram.edu/dining/pages/foodcourt.html> or in nearby Garrettsville or Mantua.

FOR MORE INFORMATION e-mail ets2@sbcglobal.net or call 440-666-5949. TO REGISTER on-line go to www.ecologicaltrainingservices.com or www.culturetechnologies.com or call 512-656-7518. Undergraduate or graduate credit can be obtained through Hiram College. Contact Jane Preston Rose at rosejp@hiram.edu, 330-569-5163.

Course Schedule

Note: Course meets over 3 weekends on Fridays and Saturdays (June 25-26, July 9-10, 23-24)

Class 1 Fri	8:30 - 9:30	Registration
	9:30 - 12:00	Lecture and lab on sedge and rush morphology
	12:00 - 1:30	Lunch in Garrettsville or Hiram
	1:00 - 4:00	Continue lab on sedge and rush morphology
Class 2 Sat	10:00 - 12:00	Lecture on grass morphology
	12:00 - 1:30	Lunch in Garrettsville or Hiram
	1:30 - 4:00	Continue lab on grass morphology
Class 3 Fri	9:00 - 12:00	Collecting in field at Barrow Field Station, Mantua Bog, Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve or other locations
	12:00 - 1:30	Lunch in field, Garrettsville or Hiram
	1:30 - 4:00	Practice keying specimens
Class 3 Sat	9:00 - 12:00	Collecting in field at Barrow Field Station, Mantua Bog, Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve or other locations
	12:00 - 1:30	Lunch in field, Garrettsville or Hiram
	1:30 - 4:00	Practice keying specimens
Class 5 Fri	9:00 - 12:00	Collecting in field at Barrow Field Station, Mantua Bog, Eagle Creek State Nature Preserve or other location
	12:00 - 1:30	Lunch in field, Garrettsville or Hiram
	1:30 - 4:00	Practice keying specimens
Class 6 Sat	10:00 - 12:00	Practice keying specimens
	12:00 - 1:30	Lunch in field, Garrettsville or Hiram
	1:30 - 4:00	Class presentations on species reports