Wetland Plant Identification Course 2011

Classroom study: June 27 & 28
Field study: July 11 & 12

Beacon Environmental is pleased to be offering a Wetland Plant Identification Course. With the use of the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES) and the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) for Southern Ontario as key land use and natural heritage planning tools, this course has been specifically designed to enhance field skills for the application of OWES, ELC, and related plant surveys. This course will be useful for terrestrial and aquatic ecologists, biologists, planners, geographers, and foresters required to apply OWES and/or ELC (in wetlands), and will also be useful for those with novice and intermediate to upper level skills in botany who wish to strengthen their wetland plant identification skills.

The course will consist of two days in the classroom and two days in the field. The classroom portion will be in a formal lab with the use of dissecting microscopes, herbarium specimens, and a range of reference materials. The field study portion will consist of visits to marsh, swamp, fen, and poor fen or bog wetland communities for plant collection followed by identification in a wet lab. A minimum of two seasoned field botanists with expertise in wetland flora will be available for instruction and to assist participants throughout the course.

The course objectives are to:

1. Provide the skills and opportunity to identify at least 100 wetland plant species in marsh, shallow aquatic, swamp, fen, and poor fen or bog wetland communities through classroom and field study.
2. Increase proficiency at using plant taxonomy identification keys and interpreting terminology to enhance botany skills as they apply to wetland plants.
3. Provide key references in the applied use of botany field skills in Ontario for natural heritage and environmental planning (for ELC and wetland evaluations).
**Course Description**

A range of plant taxonomy references will be used in teaching the course and working through identification keys for trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses, and sedges. The course will also use the Wetland Plants of Ontario field guide as a reference in both the classroom and field.

The four day course will be undertaken over two weeks, as the two day classroom portion will be in Guelph at the University of Guelph, and the two day field study portion will be in Midland at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. This will provide an opportunity for students to review and prepare between the two course components.

Note that the course has been designed to accommodate both novice and intermediate skill levels with the opportunity for both to advance their field skills. A minimum of two instructors will be present, with additional instructors depending on the class size. The course requires a minimum of 14.

**Participants will receive:**

- A copy of the Wetland Plants of Ontario field guide *(Newmaster et al. 1997)*
- A hand lens for field identification
- A course manual and reference materials
- One year paid membership with the Field Botanist’s of Ontario

**Course Itinerary**

**Day 1 – June 27, University of Guelph**

- Review of plant phylogeny of main wetland plant groups
- Introduction and review of plant taxonomy and terminology
- Using plant identification keys for wetland trees and shrubs
- Overview of the wetland plant diversity and representation in central and southern Ontario
- Using plant identification keys for wetland herbaceous dicots

**Day 2 – June 28, University of Guelph**

- Review of plants as indicators of ecological features *(groundwater, high conservation value)*
- Introduction and review of grass and sedge morphology and nomenclature
- Using plant identification keys for grasses, sedges, and rushes
- Overview of representative plant groups in different wetland community types
- Using plant identification keys for wetland herbaceous monocots
- Overview of wetland mosses and the U of G herbarium
Day 3 – July 11, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
- Discuss wetland plant identification in the context of ELC and wetland evaluations
- Field and lab identification of trees, shrubs, and herbs in treed and thicket swamps in the morning
- Field and lab identification of forbs, grasses, sedges, and rushes in meadow marsh and shallow marsh wetlands the morning and a fantastic open fen in the afternoon

Day 4 – July 12, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre and Georgian Bay coast
- Field identification of grasses, sedges, and rushes in coastal marshes, and pondweeds of coastal shallow aquatic wetlands in the morning
- Field and lab identification of shrubs and herbs in fen, poor fen or bog communities in the afternoon
- Review and final wrap-up

Course Instructors

Carole Ann Lacroix, M.Sc.
Carole Ann is the curator at the University of Guelph and has been teaching plant taxonomy and plant biology for over 30 years at the university. She specializes in the reproductive and vegetative morphology of vascular plants and specializing in grasses.

Dirk Janas, B.Sc.
Dirk is a Senior Ecologist with Beacon Environmental and has more than 15 years of applied field botany experience with special expertise in wetland plant identification and wetland habitat assessment. Dirk regularly applies his skills as a botanist in conducting wetland evaluations and ELC, and has been a co-instructor for a plant taxonomy course at the University of Guelph, and the OMNR-sponsored ELC course.

Ken Ursic, M.Sc.
Ken is a Senior Ecologist and Manager of Beacon Environmental’s Guelph office. Ken is a graduate of the University of Guelph’s Botany Department, has been a lead instructor for the OMNR-endorsed Ecological Land Classification (ELC) course for nearly a decade, and has evaluated many wetlands over the course of his career. He has special expertise in field botany and ELC based on more than 15 years of experience identifying plants and assessing habitats across southern Ontario, and has a special fondness for mosquitoes.

Geri Poisson, B.A., Certified Arborist
Geri is a Terrestrial Ecologist with Beacon Environmental and has over 14 years of experience conducting botanical inventories in Ontario and British Columbia. His expertise includes work in botany, forest ecology, restoration ecology and environmental monitoring. Geri has completed numerous inventories using the ELC for southern Ontario and is a MNR-certified wetland evaluator.
WETLAND PLANT IDENTIFICATION COURSE
REGISTRATION FORM

Participant Information

Name: ____________________________________________
Firm/Office: _______________________________________
Address: _________________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________
WORK HOME FAX
E-mail: ___________________________________________
Food Allergies: ____________________________________

Please fax or email a completed Registration Form to: Judy Hardie, Beacon Environmental, 905-201-0639, jhardie@beaconenviro.com. For additional inquiries regarding the course or payment details please contact Dirk Janas at 705-645-1050, or Judy Hardie at 905-201-7622 x221, or check www.beaconenviro.com.

Course Dates
Classroom study at the University of Guelph: Monday June 27 & Tuesday June 28, 2011.
Field Study at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre: Monday, July 11 & Tuesday July 12, 2011.

Course Fees
The cost of accommodations is not provided; however, listings for local hotels will be provided for the one night in Guelph and one night in Midland. Lunch will be provided only on the two field study days (July 11 and 12). Participants will be responsible for all other meals.

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of course (two classroom days and two field days)</td>
<td>$980.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>HST (13%)</td>
<td>$127.40</td>
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<td>No-GST (if you are GST exempt, please provide the number)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL (please fill in applicable total)</td>
<td>$</td>
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The training for this course is being conducted to provide information for the use of participants. The instructors, Beacon Environmental Ltd., and the University of Guelph cannot be held responsible in the way participants apply the information.

*Participants are responsible for their health and safety.* This is a field course, and potential for exposure to biting insects, open water, ticks that may carry Lyme Disease, mosquitoes that may carry West Nile Disease, poison ivy, poison sumac, bear encounters, among others is very real. Please discuss any concerns you may have with your instructors.

I ______________________________ agree to indemnify and save the instructors, Beacon Environmental Ltd. and the University of Guelph harmless from all claims arising in favour of any person, including myself, firm or corporation on account of personal injury (including death) or property damage to the extent resulting from my actions and participation in the wetland evaluation course.

*Payment*

Registration is guaranteed ONLY upon receipt of payment. Full payment by cheque only, payable to Beacon Environmental, is required by June 20, 2011. Please write the name of registrant on the cheque. Mail or courier to:

Judy Hardie  
Beacon Environmental  
144 Main St North, Suite 206  
Markham, ON  L3P 5T3

A confirmation and reference material package, map and additional details will be mailed upon receipt of registration and payment.

*Cancellation Policy*

Cancellation must be received in writing through fax (705-645-6639) or email (jhardie@beaconenviro.com). Half (50%) of the payment will be refunded with one to two weeks notice and no refund with less than one week notice.