

FSC FLATFORD MILL

IDENTIFYING DIFFICULT PLANTS

Monday 23 – Friday 27 August 2010

A course led by Ros Bennett

COURSE DETAILS

Are you a botanist who still shies away from the dandelion look-alikes? Have you tried and failed to sort out the willows or the docks for instance? Do you find yourself saying "I don't do sedges . . . or ferns . . . or goosefoots"? This plant identification course does not expect to turn you into an expert in any of these plant groups, but to demystify where possible and to get you started. We shall focus on plants that we find on our excursions in the lovely habitats of Constable Country and we shall spend a little time studying and getting to grips with anything that poses a problem for members of the class. By the end of this plant identification course you should be inspired with confidence and enthusiasm to tackle "new" and attractive plants and so discover yet more of our amazingly beautiful, intriguing and surprisingly diverse flora.

Provisional Programme

In the short time available, we cannot hope to get fully to grips with all the "difficult" plant groups. However Ros will come prepared to focus in particular on those groups already referred to, viz.: Willows, Sedges, Ferns, Goosefoots, Docks and "Dandelions".

It will be assumed that participants will be fairly familiar with other "easier" groups of flowering plants, but that they are beginners at these groups, having never tried before or tried and failed. We shall not be concerning ourselves overmuch with obscure hybrids but rather getting to grips with the basics of each plant group and how to begin to key them out.

There will be an indoor, classroom, introductory session on each of these groups. These will take place mostly first thing in the morning and in the evenings after supper. Most of the daytime will be spent exploring the plants of the marshes, woodlands and coastal habitats of this beautiful corner of East Anglia.

Although this is not an accredited course, it is suitable for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and a Certificate of Attendance can be provided on request.

EQUIPMENT AND THINGS TO BRING

Please bring the following with you if you can on this plant identification course:

- A hand lens (x 10 magnification) (available from the Centre £4.50ish)
- Two pairs of fine pointed forceps (if you have them) and / or two mounted needles.
- A notebook, pencils and pens
- A lunch box and thermos
- Wellingtons / waterproofs /day sack - available to hire at Centre
- Sun hat and sun lotion (just in case!).

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- A copy of the *Excursion Flora* by Clapham, Tutin and Warburg (OU) and/or *New Flora of the British Isles* by Stace (CUP)
- The Atlas to your own county's Flora if you can get hold of one.

Useful but not essential:

- *Grasses, Sedges, Rushes and Ferns* by Rose (Viking)
- *The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe* by Fitter, Fitter and Blamey (Collins)
- The BSBI handbooks to *Docks and Knotweeds* and to *Willows and Poplars*.
- *The Fern Guide* by Merryweather and Hill

And/or any other books you are accustomed to using.

TRANSPORT

Any excursions will make use of either the Centre minibus or private cars - the cost of this is included in the course fee. Anyone who kindly uses their car if requested for course excursions can be reimbursed for petrol costs.

TIMES

Afternoon tea is available from 1600 on Monday, but the first formal activity is dinner at 1830 (with the bar open from 1815!).

Residents: Please aim to arrive between **1530 and 1800** to allow us sufficient time to show you to your accommodation and around the communal areas.

Non-residents: You do not need to arrive quite so early but please can you be here by **1800** as we need to show you the communal areas as well.

This plant identification course will end at 1200 on Friday.

TUTOR

Ros Bennett is a botanist and ecologist. She was formerly a full time tutor at Flatford Mill and then organiser and leader of courses for FSC Overseas. She has written books on flowers and has taught courses on wild flowers to all age groups.

COURSE FEES AND WHAT'S INCLUDED

Resident: £404 - includes tuition, any transport on the course, full board accommodation AND a sole occupancy supplement of £10 per night. If you are happy to share a room, we will deduct the supplement to give a fee of £364.

Non-resident: £283 - includes tuition, packed lunches, evening meals and any transport during the course.

BOOKING PROCEDURES

Please make provisional bookings by telephoning, faxing or e-mailing the Centre. If the course is full and we are unable to offer you a suitable alternative, we will enter your name on a waiting list and inform you if a place becomes available.

If you have not already done so, please complete a booking form and return it to the Centre to confirm your booking. Provisional bookings will be held for 7 days. Please note carefully the booking information and conditions at the back of our brochure *FSC Courses 2010* or visit our website at:

www.field-studies-council.org/leisurelearning/bookinginformation

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Office hours: 0930 - 1700 Voicemail is available at other times.