

Identifying Sedges and Rushes

2nd - 7th August 2010

Led by Fred Rumsey

Level: Intermediate

This course is accredited by the University of Birmingham



Students at Caenlochan 2009
Photographed by: Fred Rumsey

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The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 Centres



Course outline: Sedges and Rushes form a conspicuous and important part of Britain's flora, are ecologically informative and many species are of considerable conservation concern. However, their inconspicuous flowers and unfamiliar reproductive and reduced vegetative structures mean that they are often viewed as 'difficult' and often ignored. This course aims to demystify this fascinating group of plants as we look at a wide range of different rushes, sedges and related genera and families in their natural habitats. We get to grips in the field and the laboratory with the features necessary to master the identification of these plants. Little botanical experience is necessary though some may be useful; enthusiasm is particularly welcomed. In pursuit of the plants some strenuous uphill walking and uneven and boggy terrains will be experienced as we visit some classic botanical localities and a few lesser known gems.



Carex microglochis from the Ben Lawers range
Photograph F Rumsey

Your Tutor: Fred is the British plant specialist based in the Angela Marmont Centre for UK Biodiversity in the Botany Department of the Natural History Museum. A Vice-President of the BSBI, Conservation and Recording officer for the British Pteridological Society and an ex member of council of the British Bryological Society, he is a field botanist with broad interests from bryophytes to flowering plants.

He has led extra-mural courses on flowering plant, fern and bryophyte identification for Universities and Wildlife Trusts and assisted on undergraduate field courses at Kindrogan.

Equipment to bring with you:

Wellingtons and/or waterproof walking boots (some are available at the centre at a small cost)
Waterproof clothing (some are available at the centre at a small cost)
Lunch Box
Rucksack
Thermos
Plenty of spare warm clothing
Notepad and pen

Booking Procedure

To book a place on this course, please complete the booking form and send it together with a deposit of £50.00 (cheque payable to Field Studies Council). Provisional bookings should be made by telephone. Payment of the balance of the course fee will be 30 days before the beginning of the course. Cancellation after this date may leave the customer liable for the full amount – a condition which is accepted when the booking is confirmed. You are recommended to take out personal cancellation insurance to cover this eventuality.

Course Fees & What's Included

Resident - £315 Sole Occupancy / £265 Shared Accommodation includes tuition, full board accommodation, transport to sites, use of library, from supper on 2nd until after breakfast on 7th August 2010

Non – Residential - £235 includes tuition packed lunches, evening meals and transport (in other words everything but bed and breakfast).

Transport – Any excursions during the trip will be made in either the Centre vehicles or private cars. The cost of this is included in the fee. For anyone who kindly uses their own vehicle for the course excursions will be reimbursed for petrol costs at a set rate.

Times – Resident and Non-resident visitors are requested to arrive at the centre before 7pm on 2nd and report to reception. Supper will be served at 7.30pm after which there will be an introductory talk about the centre. Breakfast is served at 8am. Tuition will end on the evening of the 6th with departure after breakfast on the 7th August.

Weekend/Mid week Courses – Courses that run from Friday to Sunday or mid week may finish late, so to accommodate this we maybe able to offer extra nights accommodation.