

Introduction to the Willows of California (*Salicaceae*)

June 14, 2008



How often do you meet a willow in field and have to assign “*Salix sp*” in your surveys? Cottonwoods and willows are the most common riparian hardwood species in California and yet many of us have little idea of how to tell them apart. Our trouble in making a positive identification is further compounded by only having vegetative material to identify during field visits when we think we need flowers to make a positive identification. This workshop will focus on the leaf, stem, and growth characteristics that are useful in making an identification while also emphasizing the regional distributions of the different species. The goal of the workshop is to instill confidence about vegetative characteristics used in the identification keys in *The Jepson Manual*.

The workshop will begin with a brief presentation focusing on the taxonomy, geographic distribution, and key identification characteristics. Fresh material of cottonwoods and willows will be available to illustrate the variety of vegetative and flowering characteristics used in *The Jepson Manual* keys. There will be an opportunity to “stump the chump” – bring in your favorite willow that has been a problem to identify and we’ll work through it together. Additionally, the instructor will provide some helpful corrections and updates to *The Jepson Manual* key. Participants should bring a hand lens, dissection equipment including extra-fine forceps, and a copy of *The Jepson Manual*. All experience levels are encouraged to participate.

The workshop will be led by John Bair. John is a recognized expert in willow and cottonwood taxonomy and physiology, and has investigated the inter-relationship between riparian plant dynamics, geomorphology, and hydrology to recommend flow management and channel restoration approaches that would improve the conditions on regulated rivers. He earned his Master’s degree working with Dr. John Sawyer at Humboldt State University analyzing riparian initiation and establishment processes on the Trinity River, a highly regulated river in northern California. His special interests include the effect of stream flow regulation on Salicaceae.

The workshop will meet Saturday, June 14, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. The registration fee is \$70.00 personal, \$100.00 business (\$60.00 for members of Friends of the Herbarium). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 16 participants (class cancelled without a minimum of 5 participants). For more information about workshop content please contact John Bair at <john@mcbaintrush.com> or (707) 826-7794 ext 14. For more information about registration or directions please call the Herbarium at (530) 898-5381.

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