

# **Introduction to Riparian/Wetland Plant Identification Ventura River and Casitas Springs Community Center May 3-4, 2011**



The CNPS Plant Science Training Program is proud to present a two-day Riparian workshop, at the Casitas Springs Community Center, Ventura



**Target audience:** Professional and student botanists, biologists, and ecologists. Participants should have knowledge of basic plant terminology.

**Primary Instructor:** **David L. Magney**, botanical consultant/Certified Arborist, and will be assisted by **Cher Batchelor** and **David Brown**

**Cost:** **\$295 CNPS members**  
**\$320 non-members**

**Course Description:** This is an intensive introductory/intermediate course on riparian and wetland plant identification and ecology. It is geared towards anyone who wants or needs to improve their knowledge and skills about riparian/wetland plants. Emphasis will be given to southern California species and habitats; however, information learned in this class will be readily applicable throughout California and elsewhere. The class will include classroom presentation and exercises, and field excursions, primarily into the Ventura River, a dynamic free-flowing southern California river. We will spend at least half the time in the field.

**Attendees will learn:**

- How to identify many riparian tree and shrub species, as well as herbaceous species,
- Tips to remembering the challenging willows
- How to use identification keys
- Plant description terminology (Latin and Greek)

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## **Instructor Bios**

**David L. Magney**, President, is a biologist/botanist, Certified Arborist, and physical geographer with a thorough knowledge of the flora of California with over 25 years of field experience. Mr. Magney has worked on and managed a large variety of projects throughout the Pacific southwest including biological resource inventories, vegetation mapping and classification, wetland delineations and restoration, rare plant surveys and ecological studies, fisheries habitat assessment and mitigation design, fisheries monitoring, small mammal trapping and surveys, biological impact analysis and mitigation, and construction and mitigation monitoring. He formed David Magney Environmental Consulting (DMEC) after spending 2 years with Fugro West, 6 years with Jones & Stokes Associates, and 3 years with Dames & Moore. Mr. Magney earned a BA in Geography and Environmental Studies (emphasis in botany) from UC Santa Barbara in 1985. He also holds an A.S. in Landscape Horticulture from Ventura College. Mr. Magney successfully completed training courses in wetland delineation (1989) and Federal wetland policy (1991) from the Wetlands Training Institute; training in the Corps of Engineers Hydrogeomorphic Assessment Methods (HGM); and courses on hydric soils, wetland hydrology, CEQA and NEPA, Endangered Species Acts, and vernal pools. He has taught courses or given presentations on wetland impacts and mitigation, CEQA, Clean Water Act permitting, water quality, and wetland delineation methodology. Mr. Magney has authored two floras in California and presented numerous papers on vegetation and water quality. He serves on the Environmental Review Board for Los Angeles County Regional Planning, the City of Ojai's Tree Committee, and is very active in CNPS.

**Cher Batchelor** is a Senior Biologist with Rincon Consultants, with over 10 years experience. Ms. Batchelor has a B.S. in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo (1995). She has performed biological surveys, special-status species surveys, and upland vegetation mapping and classification for the many project sites in coast southern and central California. She prepared biological assessments with descriptions of all plant associations observed, following protocols developed by CNPS. Ms. Batchelor has conducted wetland delineations, restoration plantings, and mitigation monitoring in several locations, and prepared wetland permit applications and assisted in preparing detailed wetland mitigation and monitoring plans. Ms. Batchelor worked for DMEC for 10 years before joining Rincon Consultants in Ventura.

**David M. Brown** is a Biologist/Zoologist with DMEC with over 10 years experience in biological studies and environmental consulting. He has experience conducting botanical and biological surveys in central and southern California. Mr. Brown was a team member conducting floristic surveys of 62,000 acres of the Tejon Ranch in Kern and Los Angeles Counties and on the Wind Wolves Preserve in southern Kern County. He has mapped and described natural vegetation, assessing project-related impacts to natural habitats, and mapped the distributions and occurrences of special-status plant species. Mr. Brown earned a B.S. degree in Zoology, UC, Davis in 1993, and a M.S. degree in Ecology, UC Davis in 1997. He is an expert on giraffes.

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## **Equipment list, Locations, Materials provided**

### **Please bring the following:**

Hand lens  
Clipboard  
Field notebook and pencils  
Ziplocks for collecting plant material  
Water bottles  
Lunches for two days (packable)  
Backpack for all of the above  
Sturdy boots  
Hat & field clothes appropriate for the weather and conditions (e.g. protection from rain, sun, heat/cold, insects etc.).  
Jepson Manual  
Metric ruler



### **Location:**

Casitas Springs Community Center, 8437 Edison Drive, Ventura, CA 93001.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&q=8437+Edison+Dr,+Ventura,+CA+93001&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=8437+Edison+Dr,+Ventura,+California+93001&gl=us&sqi=2&z=16>

### **Physical requirements:**

Participants should be physically able to hike two miles over uneven terrain and remain in the field for up to six hours at a time.

### **Materials Provided:**

Handouts, selected identification keys, plant material, technical references

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**Proposed Agenda (subject to change)**

**Tues, May 3**

8:30 a.m. Meet at Casitas Springs Community Center  
coffee and tea  
Introductions  
Introductory Lecture

11:00 a.m. Ventura River field study  
Plant identification and riparian ecology

Lunch in field (please bring your own lunch and water)

1:00 p.m. Continued plant identification and riparian/wetland ecology

4:45 p.m. Break for day

**Wed, May 4**

8:30 a.m. Meet at Casitas Springs Community Center  
coffee and tea

11:30 a.m. Ventura River watershed field study plant identification and riparian ecology

Lunch in field (please bring your own lunch and water)

1:00 p.m. Continued Field Study

3:00 p.m. Questions and answers

**Test** on material for certificate of completion

Course Evaluations

4:30 p.m. End of workshop