**Wetland Plant Identification**

**June 23-24, 2015**

**Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian MD**

Instructor: Bill Sipple: W.S Sipple Wetland and Environmental Training and Consulting

**Learning Objectives**

* Students will gain beginner level knowledge of plant diagnostic characteristics including flower morphology and leaf type and arrangements
* Students will become familiar with taxonomic keys
* Students will understand adaptations of vascular plants to different hydrologic regimes
* Students will be able to identify freshwater wetland plants in natural wetland settings

**Pre-course work**

Read Chapter 2 on freshwater wetlands from *Days Afield: Exploring Wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay Region*

**June 23, 2015: Day 1 - Classroom/Lecture**

8:30 Registration & coffee / light breakfast

9:00 Welcome / Introductions

9:10 **Introduction to identifying vascular plants**

1. Instructor's approach to teaching plant identification
2. Morphology of flowers, inflorescence types, and leaf types
3. Understanding taxonomic hierarchy and technical keys
4. How to use Newcomb’s Wildflower Guide & Tiner’s Field Guide to Non-tidal Wetland Identification (explanation and instructor led keying using a few live plants)

10:30 Break

10:45 **Group keying of plants** (using living specimens)

1. Three groups of 5 students keying out woody plants (5-7 trees, 8-10 shrubs, 1-2 woody vines) using Tiner; keying some herbaceous plants (6-8) using Tiner and/or Newcomb. Instructor will rotate between groups giving advice/aid as needed.

12:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 **Continuation of Group keying**

1. Summary comments by instructor

2:00 Break

2:15 **Lecture on ecology of wetlands and adaptations of vascular plants in hydrological conditions**

3:00 **Field lecture** at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Marsh Boardwalk if time allows; otherwise covered tomorrow.

3:45 Wrap up / Reminders for tomorrow’s day in the field

**Wetland Plant Identification**

**June 23 - 24, 2015**

**June 24, 2015: Day 2 - Practice in the field (9am-4pm)**

*Rain date: June 30, 2015*

9:00 Welcome& Overview of the Day

9:10 **Site Visits**

We will be visiting a number of wetland types present at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary including a tidal forested wetland, a large tidal marsh, a non-tidal marsh, a floodplain swamp and a forested swamp, seepage areas, and a vernal pool.

At each site we will:

1. Discuss ecology and history of the site, wetland types, potential adaptations, etc
2. Key plants (in groups) at site

12:00 Lunch (bring your own)

12:45 **Continuation of** **Site Visits** (see above)

4:00 Wrap up & Evaluation