

**Introduction to the Willows of California (Salicaceae)
At Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata, CA.
All-day Workshop 9am - 5pm,
Saturday, April 26 or Sunday, April 27, 2025**

**Sponsored by The California Native Plant Society, North Coast Chapter
and the Natural History Museum of Cal Poly Humboldt**



California is home to over one quarter of the estimated 120 willow species growing in North America. Cottonwoods and willows are the most common riparian hardwood species in California. Identification to species is often neglected because willows are thought to frequently hybridize. When only vegetative materials are available in the field, identification can be further hindered because we think we need flowers to make a positive identification. The workshop will focus on the leaf, stem, and other vegetative growth characteristics that are useful in making identification while also emphasizing differences within species across their regional distributions. The goal of the workshop is to provide a broad overview of willows, highlight vegetative characteristics used in the identification keys in *The Jepson Manual (second edition)* and familiarize participants with the six most common willows in California.

The workshop will include a presentation focusing on the overall willow family taxonomy, taxonomic changes in the second edition of the Jepson Manual, geographic distribution, how to look at willows to make a successful identification, and key identification characteristics. Fresh cottonwoods and willows material will be available to illustrate the variety of vegetative and flowering characteristics used in *The Jepson Manual 2* keys. Bring in your problem willows and we will apply our new willow skills to identifying them together. Additionally, the instructor will provide an overview of willow family ecology and briefly cover use of willows and cottonwoods in restoration projects. Participants should bring a hand lens, dissection equipment including extra-fine forceps, and a copy of *The Jepson Manual 2*. All experience levels are encouraged to participate.

Cost: \$35 for Cal Poly Humboldt or College of the Redwoods students; \$150 for [California Native Plant Society \(CNPS\)](#) or [Natural History Museum \(NHM\) members](#); and \$200 for non-members.

Registration: On the Natural History Museum website: <https://natmus.humboldt.edu/workshops>, in person at the Natural History Museum of Cal Poly Humboldt (1242 G Street, Arcata, CA 95521)

About the Instructor:

The workshop will be led by **John Bair**, who is a recognized expert in willow and cottonwood taxonomy and physiology. John has investigated the inter-relationship between riparian plant establishment, geomorphology, and hydrology to recommend flow management and channel restoration approaches. 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. His special interests include the effect of streamflow regulation on Salicaceae.

