



Plant Keying Workshop

June 20, 2009

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

151 Plant Biology Laboratories Bldg

Michigan State University

(South side of Wilson Rd. between Farm Lane & Bogue Street)



Have you...

ever wanted to learn how to recognize different wildflowers?

ever wondered how to interpret descriptions of flower parts and leaf shapes?

ever struggled to use a technical plant book or key?

Come to a plant keying workshop hosted by Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter. Ph.D. student Josh Springer, who has taught Plants of Michigan and Systematic Botany at Michigan State University, and has extensive experience using dichotomous keys, will lead the workshop. The workshop will combine a brief lecture to introduce common terms, and a hands-on indoor lab session to teach of the basics of keying plants. If the weather cooperates, the class will venture outside and practice keying plants on campus.

Participants will:

- Learn terminology describing flower parts, leaf shape, and other plant characteristics.
- Learn to use a dichotomous key to confidently identify plants.
- Practice keying unknown plants to family, genus, and finally, species!
- Learn to use manuals like Michigan Flora and Newcomb's Wildflower Guide.

Participants are asked to bring the following materials to the class:

- Copies of Michigan Flora and/or Newcomb's Wildflower Guide (a few extra copies will be available for those that don't have their own.)
- Small 10x hand lens or magnifying glass (optional, available at the MSU Student Book Store)

To register, complete the form below and mail it along with your payment to:
Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter, c/o Sue Millar, 14818 S. Oakes Rd., Perry, MI 48872.

Call 517-675-5665 or E-mail smillar@hughes.net with any questions or visit

www.for-wild.org/chapters/redcedar

Plant Keying Workshop Registration

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ E-mail _____

Please check one Individual \$20.00 Couple \$30.00

Make checks payable to Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter. Registration forms must be postmarked by June 10, 2009. Class size is limited to 24 participants who will be scheduled on a first come first served basis.

Plant Keying Workshop Background Questionnaire

To assist Josh Springer in tailoring his presentation to the needs of the participants, he has asked all those registering for the Plant Keying Workshop to fill out this questionnaire regarding their background and previous experience. Please return the completed questionnaire with your registration form and payment, or send it directly to Josh as an E-mail attachment at spring47@msu.edu, or mail it to him at 143 Plant Biology Building, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 48824. He would like to have them by the first week of June 2009.

1. Name:
2. Age (or age range):
3. Have you taken any formal Botany courses? If yes, what have you taken and how long ago?
4. How long have you been interested in identifying plants or in knowing what was 'in your backyard'?
5. Which books or guides do you generally use to attempt keying plants?
6. What sorts of plants do you generally have an easier time keying; trees, shrubs, forbs, or grasses?
7. What do you think you have the hardest time keying? (See above, or any particular group)
8. What are some **specific** plants that you have easily keyed before?
9. Specifically, what do YOU want to learn from the keying workshop?