

Duration: On demand (six months to complete)

Credit Hours: 36 Hours

Certified Wetland Botanist – Syllabus Winter Edition (WE)

General Information The Swamp School's online Certified Wetland Botanist - Winter Edition (CWB-WE) course is a unique blend of online learning paired with local hands-on practice that is designed to help you learn your wetland plants with an emphasis on winter identification. The course is presented in a topic format and should normally take about 12 consecutive weeks if aggressively pursued but you have six months to complete the program. The classroom portion is offered entirely online as a virtual classroom experience. There is no need to travel to our location.

This course is part of the Certified Wetland Delineator Series. The series includes this course as well as the Certified Hydric Soils Investigator (CHSI), Certified Wetland Hydrology (CWH), and Certified Wetland Delineator (CWD) Courses.

“A major part of the course includes the collection of plant samples and uploading them to our virtual herbarium. You will be asked to key out and identify major diagnostic characteristics of a select number of wetland plants common to your region. We will coach you on how to do this and provide you with guidance on a number of tips and tricks to properly identify the species in your virtual collection.”

Course Description

The CWB Winter Edition course is designed to educate the student on all aspects of plant identification, use of field guides and how to use plant identification keys, common and scientific names of plants, plant form and function and habitat requirements, with an emphasis on winter identification techniques and additional tree species. You will also become familiar with the USACOE wetland indicators. Each topic will focus on a different classification of plants by region. The course is designed to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of each region and its indicators through the use of assignments, discussions, quizzes, and tests.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to present original work for all assignments, respond to forum discussions and provide responses to other students' discussions. ALL information for course assignments, (data forms, pictures, drawings, etc.) must be current and completed within the time frame of your published course start and end dates unless a specific exception to this policy is granted by the staff of the Swamp School. Submissions completed for an employer's work-related project will be accepted as long as they meet the time restrictions mentioned above.

Class assignments include the preparation of a submission that may include an essay, pictures, maps, or other course-related material. Course work is primarily plant identification and some plant calculations. Occasional quizzes are included in the program as well as a mid-term and a final exam.

Instructor Contact - Directly within the class via Moodle e-mail

Time Limits

While there are no specific time limits (other than the 6-month registration period), in the event that a student falls more than 2 weeks behind during the class term, the student will receive a “how’s it going”

email from the instructor and the student's course access is subject to suspension without notice until the student contacts the Swamp School to discuss continuation in the class. At the end of six months, it is up to the student to contact the Swamp School to discuss re-enrollment options.

Plagiarism and Writing Standards

The Swamp School's expectation is that all student work will be original. A detailed description of our policy on proper submission of an assignment is outlined in our Plagiarism Statement and Writing Standards.

Grading*

The grading structure is as follows:

- Weekly Herbarium Assignments - 40%
- Exam - 30%
- Class Discussions - 15%
- Presentations - 10%
- Quizzes – 5%

*A minimum overall grade of 80% is required to pass this course.

Course Schedule

Topic 1 - Ferns

Topic 2 - Woody Vines

Topic 3 - Winter Trees – Part 1/Wetland Plant Math/Field Data/Point-Intercept Method

Topic 4 - Conifers

Topic 5 - Deciduous Trees

Topic 6 - Sedges & Mid-Term

Topic 7 - Winter Trees - Part 2

Topic 8 - Grasses/Rushes

Topic 9 - Winter Trees – Part 3

Topic 10 - Shrubs

Topic 11 - Winter Trees – Part 4

Topic 12 - Overview of Wildflowers /Final Exam/Wrap up

Certification

Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive a certificate with an electronic seal of authenticity. This certification will remain valid for 5 years and is eligible for renewal with additional continuing education. The Certified Wetland Botanist (CWB-WE) is part of the Swamp School's Certified Wetland Delineator Program (CWD).