



Introduction to *Plant Family Identification* Center for Earth Concerns, Ojai, California May 6-7, 2015

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) **Plant Science Training Program** is proud to present a 2-day Plant Family Identification workshop, at the Center for Earth Concerns, near Ojai.



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

Primary Instructor: David L. Magney, Botanist/Certified Arborist

Cost: \$310 CNPS members (2014 prices, they are subject to change); \$345 non-members

Registration: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/>

Questions: contact Becky Reilly at breilly@cnps.org

Course Description: This is an intensive introductory course on how to recognize plant families, focusing on the 25 dominant families of native plants found in California. Plant identification can be a challenge; however, if you know the basic leaf, flower, and fruit characters of the most common plant families, you will be able to significantly reduce the amount of time required to properly identify most plant species. The workshop is geared towards anyone who wants or needs to improve their knowledge and skills about identifying native and naturalized plants. Emphasis will be given to southern California species; however, information learned in this class will be readily applicable throughout California and elsewhere. Common and rare species will be covered. The class will include classroom presentation and exercises, and field excursions, primarily into the Ojai Valley in Ventura County.

We will spend at nearly half the time in the field. Riparian, chaparral, oak woodland, and coastal sage scrub plants will be covered. Attendees will learn: how to recognize at least 25 families of the most common, dominant, and frequently encountered vascular plants found in California; how to identify many tree and shrub species, as well as herbaceous species, by sight and using written dichotomous keys, focusing on characteristics that define plant families; tips to remembering the differences between similar plant families and species; how to use identification keys, focusing on the family keys in the *Jepson Manual*; plant description terminology (Latin and Greek); and tools available to help identify native plants.

The following 25 plant families will be covered, plus some others with similar characteristics:

Alliaceae, Apiaceae, Asteraceae, Boraginaceae, Brassicaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Convolvulaceae, Cyperaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fabaceae, Juncaceae, Lamiaceae, Malvaceae, Onagraceae, Orobanchaceae, Phrymaceae, Plantaginaceae, Poaceae, Polemoniaceae, Polygonaceae, Ranunculaceae, Rosaceae, Rhamnaceae, Solanaceae.