



2020 Eagle Hill Institute
Online Natural History Seminars
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Identification of Common Carex (Sedges) Using Field Features

Dr. Robert Lichvar

October 5th–7th, 2020

The genus Carex (Sedge) is a member of the Cyperaceae or Sedge family. This genus is large but characteristics are small and challenging for identifying species to the untrained eye. This class will focus on common Sedges (Carex spp.) and field identification with the use of a 10x hand lens. The genus will be divided into 5 morphological growth form group for easy identification in the field. Within each group we will key the most common sedges of the northeast typically seen in wetlands but will include some upland species. These growth form groups are used extensively in northern Europe and was brought to the United States and developed for several geographic regions in the country by Dr. William Weber. This approach allows for carrying a simple field guide to the field for quick reference and identification. Each student of this class will be supplied a copy of the field guide to identify the common sedges in the field. But these keys use standard botanical terminology and features so when needed a local technical flora can be used and because of the repeated keying in the field guide they will have an innate understanding of what the keys are asking for and what the features are to observe. We will attempt to work with 20-25 of the most common Carex species. Online materials will include Powerpoint presentations and keying sedges in the classroom environment.

About the Instructor

Dr. Robert Lichvar (rlichvar@gmail.com) has been a floristic botanist for over 35 years. He has written five floras and has done various taxonomic treatments mainly in the Brassicaceae family (mustards). His experience includes both research using morphological and molecular methods (DNA phylogenetics), and he has discovered and described six new species to science. He has worked botanically throughout the entire US including the arctic in Alaska to rain forests in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Along with years of active research he has been teaching plant identification for 30 plus years to mainly Federal and State biologists and several universities. In doing so, he has developed simple approaches for introductory to intermediate level classes. He was formerly the Director of the National Wetland Plant List for the US Army Corps of Engineers. He's now retired back to his adopted and beloved state of Wyoming in the mountains.



Scheduling Details

October 5: 7-9PM EST

October 6: 7-9PM EST

October 7: 7-9PM EST

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us...> signup is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.