

# *Friends of the Ahart Herbarium, CSU Chico*

## *Introduction to the Willows of California (Salicaceae)*

*June 22, 2024, Saturday*

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.



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.

The workshop will meet Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Holt Hall room 129 at CSU Chico. You may bring your own lunch or dine at a local restaurant. Registration is \$110.00 personal, \$130.00 business, \$100.00 for members of Friends of the Ahart Herbarium, \$40.00 student (only 2 seats available at the student price). Please register in advance; class size is limited to 20 participants, class cancelled without at least 8 participants. For more information about workshop content please contact John Bair at [john@mcbainassociates.com](mailto:john@mcbainassociates.com) or (707) 273-1046. For more information about workshop registration please contact the Biology Office at (530) 898-5356. Note that instructions are on the [online registration](#) (click this link) form if paying with credit card or check. You will receive more information on workshop logistics closer to the date of the workshop.