

Standardized Photography for Plant Identification

June 11-12, 2011

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Kirchoff, Department of Biology, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC 27402. Contact: 336-334-4953, 336-639-0477, or kirchoff@uncg.edu.

The workshop will start at 8.30 am and end at 5 p.m. each day.

Registration fee is \$50. This includes snacks and lunch. There are no eating venues open on the weekends near campus. If you wish to register, please email Michael.piep@usu.edu or mary.barkworth@usu.edu or call 435-797-0061. Early registration would be appreciated – and must be completed before June 10 in order to guarantee that we order enough lunches.

SATURDAY

8.30 am Meet, greet, and mingle. Refreshments provided.
Formal introductions.
Lecture: Standardized photos and their use in plant identification.
First photo assignment A) First standardized set - trees; b) Photo of a tree.

Noon Lunch and upload image to Picassa Web albums
Review of first standardized set (A) through Picassa Web albums.
Using Picassa with google Earth to GeoTag photograph B.

Break
Photography backgrounds, use of flash, etc.

For those staying overnight, there will be an informal barbecue at 6 pm.

SUNDAY

8.30 am Meet, greet, mingle; refreshments provided.
Lecture: Geotagging and Exif (etc.) Data
Second photo assignment (C) - second standardized set –a herbaceous plant.

Noon Lunch and uploading to Picassa web albums
Review of second photo assignment in Picassa web albums

Break
Interactive exercise: creating a visual key [alternative, working with Woody Plants of the Southeast to explore visual learning]

Information about the Standardized Photography Workshop

The workshop will start at 9 am on Saturday and Sunday June 11 and 12 in Room 301 of the Geology Building on the Logan campus of Utah State University. It will end at 5 pm on each day. The room is located in the southwest corner of the building, on the third floor. Come a few minutes early for refreshments and to meet the other participants. The campus buildings are sometimes locked on the weekends so if you can't get in, please be at the main entrance on the south side of the building just before 9:00 a.m. If you see no one there and the door is locked, call my cell phone (435-754-6702); I shall turn it on for the occasion.

We shall be dividing our time between classroom lectures and activities and photographic forays around campus. Because there are no eating facilities within easy walking distance of campus, we shall have to order box lunches. Please let me know if you have dietary constraints. The cost is included in the registration fee.

Please bring the following to the workshop:

- A digital camera. A digital SLR with a macro lens is helpful, but optional.

- A laptop computer with wireless internet capability. If you do not own a laptop, please try to borrow one. If you are unable to borrow one, please contact me at the herbarium.
- Some way of transferring your photos from your camera to your laptop.
- A solid-color photographic background, preferably black. High quality black velvet works very well. You want a velvet that looks dark black even in strong sunlight. You should expect to pay at least \$15 per yard for velvet of the appropriate quality. Other types of backgrounds may be available from photographic suppliers.
- A tripod if you have one. It is not necessary to purchase a tripod for this course.
- A flash, if you have one. It is not necessary to purchase a flash for this course.
- Rain gear and a means of protecting your camera, if rain is predicted.

There are several free programs that you should install on your laptop before the workshop:

- Picasa (<http://picasa.google.com>). Start the program after installation and let it scan your computer.
- Google Earth (<http://www.google.com/earth/>).
- GeoSetter (<http://www.geosetter.de/en/>). Run the program after installation and let it auto-update. You may have to say "yes" to the update when prompted. If you are asked to set any preferences, just click "ok" to the defaults. Do not change anything.

If you do not already have one, please create a free Google account so you can upload photos to Picasa web albums. To create an account, go to <http://www.google.com>, click on "Sign In" and then choose "Create New Account." You will be given one gigabyte of free storage space where you can upload your photos. Other students will be able to access your work from this account during the course.

If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 435-797-1584.

Sincerely,

Mary Barkworth, Director
Intermountain Herbarium