

Introduction to Grass Identification and Keying: A two-day Workshop
Saturday and Sunday, November 21-22, 2026

Target Audience: Professional and student botanists, consultants, regulators, and ecologists who wish to improve their grass identification and keying skills.

Description: This is an introductory workshop focusing on keying grasses in *The Jepson Manual, 2nd Ed.* (JM2) and Jepson eflora as well as on sight-recognition of several common native and non-native grasses occurring on the North Coast.

The workshop starts with an overview of the Poaceae and an introductory review of essential grass morphology and keying terminology. The rest of the workshop will be guided dissection and keying of specimens in the laboratory using a microscope and the JM2 and Jepson eflora. Keying will be punctuated with guidance and commentary on keying group, tribe and subfamily characteristics. Several local common grasses will be displayed and discussed to enhance sight-recognition. Participants should have knowledge of basic plant terminology and use of dichotomous keys such as in the JM2.

Participants will gain proficiency in:

- Understanding basic grass terminology, morphology, and ecology.
- Keying terminology and techniques used in
- Understanding challenging or unclear JM2 and eflora key couplets.
- Sight recognition of several common native and non-native North Coast grasses.
- Understanding taxonomic placements in some grass subfamilies and tribes.

Cost: \$175 CNPS members; \$225 non-CNPS members; Students \$35.

Registration: Opens September 24, 2026. Register on-line at northcoastcnps.org.

Venue: Cal Poly Humboldt, Arcata, CA. Directions and additional information will be provided to registered participants about two weeks before the workshop.

Schedule: Saturday November 21, 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday November 22, 9:00am – 1:00pm.

For Further information contact: Heather Davis at had31@humboldt.edu

About the Instructors:

Heather Davis is a graduate student in the Department of Biological Sciences at Cal Poly Humboldt. She studies speciation events within the *Silene hookeri* complex. Her main interests include sedges and grasses, phylogenetics and morphometrics of California native plants. Heather has been working as a lead botanist for 4 years and is currently a teaching associate for Plant Taxonomy at Cal Poly Humboldt.

Kipp Pow is a botanist working with Stillwater Sciences. He received his masters degree from Humboldt State University in 2019, where he studied the plant-pollinator relationship of *Cordylanthus tenuis* and *Anthidium placitum*.

Although his true passion lies in the flashy mechanics of insect-pollinated flowers, he harbors a fondness for subtle, wind-pollinated grasses.

Gordon Leppig is a retired Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife where he was engaged in regional conservation planning and riverine and wetland restoration projects. He has been a casual observer of aquatic and wetland plants for over 30 years.