

BOTANY FOR BEGINNERS 2019

This part-time course will help you become more familiar with at least 350 local wild plants. Each module runs over a weekend and focuses on a different group of plants; we show you how to identify them, using classroom-based tuition sessions and follow-up fieldtrips to local sites. We aim to increase your appreciation and understanding of the plant diversity of Leicestershire & Rutland.

Starting in April, you will see most of the wildflowers commonly found in Leicestershire & Rutland and, by September, you should be able to:

- identify at least 350 species (50+ per module) by sight or by key;
- identify some of the less common species;
- use ID keys & hand-lenses effectively.

No prior knowledge or qualifications are required, and there are no exams or formal assessment, but we do provide a certificate of attendance. This course can be taken for personal enjoyment, to help you as a conservation volunteer, or as preparation for further study.

The fieldtrips: we visit species-rich nature reserves, many managed by **Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust** (LRWT); we help you practise your new ID skills and show you how to survey a site (seeing the most plants in the shortest time) and record your finds: all important skills for wildlife conservation.

Local botany group: while on the course, you are welcome at field meetings of the Leicestershire & Rutland group of the **Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland** (BSBI). You can see interesting plants, try out your new skills and pick up plant ID tips.

On-line resources: see images of wild plants recorded locally on the **NatureSpot** website, where you can also post your own wildflower records. We will check any photographs taken in Leicestershire & Rutland and aim to help you name that plant.

You can build on your experiences and develop your skills further by taking the Botanic Garden's follow-up course, *Plant Identification Skills*, which starts in October every year. See the Garden's website for more details: www.le.ac.uk/botanicgarden

COURSE MODULES 2019

Module 1 *Getting started with plant identification.* Saturday **27th April**, 10.00-17.00: Botanic Garden. Sunday, **28th April**, 10.30-15.30: Botanic Garden

Module 2 *Spring woodland flowers.* Saturday **11th May**, 10.00-17.00: Attenborough Arboretum. Sunday **12th May**, 10.30-15.30: Cloud Wood

Module 3 *Summer meadow flowers 1.* Saturday, **25th May**, 10.00-17.00: Botanic Garden. Sunday, **26th May**, 10.30-15.30: Merry's Meadows

Module 4 *Summer meadow flowers 2.* Saturday, **15th June**, 10.00-17.00: Botanic Garden. Sunday, **16th June**, 10.30-15.30: Ulverscroft LNR

Module 5 *Plants in & by water.* Saturday, **6th July**, 10.00-17.00: Botanic Garden. Sunday, **7th July**, 10.30-15.30: Aylestone Meadows

Module 6 *'Weeds'.* Saturday, **17th August**, 10.00-17.00: Botanic Garden. Sunday, **18th August**, 10.30-15.30: Rally Bank LNR, Leicester

Module 7 *Trees.* Saturday, **14th September**, 10.00-17.00: Attenborough Arboretum. Sunday, **15th September**, 10.30-15.30: Botanic Garden.

COURSE DETAILS 2019

Fees:

Each module: £85

*Discount rate: £70

*offered to members of LRWT, BSBI or Friends of the Botanic Garden.

All modules: £595

Discount rate (for booking all modules at the same time): £490.

You can take modules singly or in any number & combination.

Venue: Indoor tuition sessions are held in the coach house at the **Botanic Garden**, Oadby or in the classroom at the **Attenborough Arboretum**, which is only about a mile away, in Leicester.

Teaching staff:

Louise Marsh (UoLBG/BSBI)

Assisted by BSBI members.

Course Director:

Dr Richard Gornall (UoLBG)

Correspondence address for further information:

Administrator, Botanic Garden, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH

Telephone: 0116 271 2933

Email the Botanic Garden:

botanicgarden@le.ac.uk

For more resources, see the following websites:

lrwt.org.uk

www.naturespot.org.uk

<https://bsbi.org/>