

NNNS workshops for all 2017



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Excellent field guides now exist for almost all groups but to get the best out of them requires a little confidence. Ultimately that confidence comes from familiarity and experience but getting started can be daunting which is where the NNNS Workshops come in with tutors to take you through the preliminaries. They achieve this through a combination of field work, hands-on experience at the bench and by providing information.

No level of pre-knowledge is required, just an interest in taking that further step. You do not have to be a member of NNNS to attend!

Flowering plants May 14

Natural Surroundings, Bayfield 10 am – 4 pm

Tutor: **Simon Harrap**

Aimed at beginners and improvers. We will look in detail at the anatomy of a plant, covering all the main plant families (e.g. the carrot family, the pea family, the cabbage family); how to use a hand lens, and the pros and cons of the various field guides on the market. Weather permitting, we will spend time out-of-doors and put what we have learnt into practice.

Bees July 9

Holt Hall 10 am – 4 pm Tutor: **Nick Owens**

In addition to the familiar social bees (bumbees and honey bee), numerous solitary bees have adopted a different lifestyle. The workshop will cover the identification of all bees, at least to genus level, using keys and microscopes. Participants will have the chance to learn techniques of collecting and preserving their own specimens. We will also cover the conservation of bees and how to encourage them in your garden.

Bees of Norfolk by Nick Owens will be published in early May.

Caddis flies August 5

Holt Hall 10 am – 4 pm Tutor: **Tony Irwin**

In this workshop, preserved specimens will be used to introduce the principles and pitfalls of identifying adult caddis flies. It is suitable for those who regularly catch caddis, either through general collecting or by light-trapping. Microscopes will be available but bring your own if preferred. See over for more details

Heath and dune lichens Nov 11

Holt Hall 10 am – 4 pm Tutor: **Peter Lambley**

Intended for the beginner, this workshop will cover collecting and the basics of identifying these attractive but little-studied, organisms. There should be an opportunity for some collecting in the field but the emphasis will be on examination under stereo microscopes.

Microscope event - something different - and free! Sept 3

Holt Hall 10 am to 1 pm but drop in when you wish. Followed by an informal user session.

Richard Campey of OneStop Nature Shop at Burnham Deepdale will demonstrate a wide range of microscopes and related equipment suitable for amateur naturalists. Followed by an optional informal self-help workshop on techniques with the compound (high power) microscope, mainly for fungus folk but for anyone interested. There is no need to book but an email (courses@nnns.org.uk) to say you are interested would be appreciated.

Cost £15. Book at courses@nnns.org.uk Further details and other workshops on reverse.

NNNS Workshops

Booking

The easiest way for us (and possibly you) is to email your request to courses@nnns.org.uk and you will receive a reply confirming your application or answering your query. Alternatively, phone Tony Leech on 01263 712282. Some of our workshops are likely to be very popular so please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to attend a workshop on which you have booked a place.

Charges

£15 per participant. This is payable on the day.

Venues

Holt Hall A field study centre 0.5 km north of Holt in North Norfolk. The entrance is from the Kelling Road at TG084396. Post code: NR25 7DU

Natural Surroundings On the Bayfield Estate, about 1 km south of Glandford on the Letheringsett to Blakeney road. TG047407. Post code: NR25 7JN

General information

Most of the workshops will involve a trip into the immediate surroundings. Please let us know if you would have a problem with a short walk. Please do not bring a dog but do bring a packed lunch; hot drinks will be provided.

Caddis fly workshop – additional information

Participants will learn to identify a range of species, primarily using the Royal Entomological Society Handbook by Barnard and Ross. Microscopes will be provided, though anyone who prefers to use their own is welcome to do so. The workshop is suitable for those who regularly catch caddis, either through general collecting, or by light-trapping, but note that killing and dissection of specimens is necessary in many cases.

National Trust workshops at Sheringham Park

Booking essential on 01263 820550

Part of a partnership programme between Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the National Trust.

SEASHORE WILDLIFE Saturday 12th August **Time:** 14:30 – 17:30 **Cost:** £17.50

The chalk reefs at Sheringham are one of the UK's marine biodiversity hot-spots. We will start with a classroom session focusing on the crustaceans, molluscs and fish that can be found around the Norfolk coast. We will then head down to the shore at low tide for some 'rock pooling'.

FUNGI Thursday 12th and Saturday 14th October **Time:** 10.30am – 3.30pm **Cost:** £24

Learn the basics of mushroom identification with local expert Tony Leech. Mushrooms and toadstools are fascinating and diverse. In this workshop we will investigate the world of fungi and learn how to identify them through field and classroom sessions.

FERNS AND THEIR ALLIES Saturday 11th November **Time:** 10.30am – 3.30pm **Cost:** £24

Learn how to tell Lady-ferns from Male-ferns and Hard-ferns from Soft Shield-ferns with local expert Bob Ellis and National Trust Ranger Mary Ghullam. This workshop will introduce you to the unusual life-cycle of the fern and help you to identify different species, both through examining specimens in the classroom and through exploring the ferns growing in Sheringham Park.

Microscope demonstration - FREE

The OneStop Nature Shop (Burnham Deepdale) is offering an opportunity to compare and try a wide range of microscopes and other equipment at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall PE31 8BZ on June 16th. Come any time between 10 am and 5 pm. For further details see www.onestopnatureshop.co.uk.