



Biological Field School

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The following is a breakdown of the courses, which make up the core of the FAT Program along with their unit hours. The prices represent individual costs if students enroll for 3 month semester programs. Although these courses may be incorporated into 9 to 12 month programs individual programs costs are then subject to the length of the program, rather than individual courses. These are subject to changes or alterations as they arise;

Field Assistant Training (FAT) Program Courses

The following is a breakdown of the courses, which make up the core of the General FAT Program along with their unit hours and price (in Canadian dollars). These are subject to changes or alterations as they arise;

Level 1 Terrestrial FAT Plant Course - (Practical) 40 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Learn the practical applications of how to positively field identify up to 20 families and vascular plants by learning family and genera characteristics through the use of written descriptions, photographs, physical specimens and examples, when available, diagrams and the eyes of an experienced instructor. This course will prepare the student for any type of job that requires field identification of vascular plants within the eastern half of North America. This course is available as a correspondence course and online and is a prerequisite for the Level 2 General Plant Course.

Level 1 Terrestrial Bird Course - (Practical) 40 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Students will learn how to positively field identify up to 23 families of birds along with songs and calls of 17 commonly heard birds of the eastern half of North America. This course will prepare students for any job that requires field identification of birds and is available as a correspondence course. It is a prerequisite for the Level 2 Bird Course.

Level 1 ACCESS - Data Entry, Collection, Interpretation and Analysis - (Practical) 20 hours: Fee = \$700.00

The compilation of field data collection procedures and entry utilizing MS ACCESS are emphasized so that students may perform basic ACCESS operations. This course is an excellent introduction to the art and science of data collection procedures for anyone who wishes to work in field biology conducting research or working as Terrestrial Ecologists and Biologists. This course is available by correspondence and is a prerequisite for the terrestrial General FAT certification courses.

Level 1 GIS - (Practical) 20 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Data collection techniques from census/survey field work are applied using ArcView 9.3 to generate shape files, delineate polygons and output maps for reports. Advanced GIS applications are emphasized including how to capture data and download using GIS software, shapefile configuration and editing sessions. This is an excellent course for gaining some practical field experience and applying theory to the field situation, or working the environmental industry as a GIS Technician

Level 2 Terrestrial Plant Course - (Practical) 40 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Learn how to practically and positively field identify up to 18 Genera of vascular plants and 21 genera of trees/shrubs within the eastern half of North America by direct observation through field/tutorial sessions. Students should have a thorough understanding of how to positively field identify up to 20 families of vascular plants or have taken the Level 1 General Plant course. **Please note**, this course does not concentrate on species identification, but emphasizes similarities and differences between confusing Genera and species. This course is essential for those who wish to find employment that demands field expertise and knowledge of vascular plants.

Level 2 Terrestrial Bird Course - (Practical) 40 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Learn how to practically and positively field identify 15 genera of birds and up to 85 songs and calls of commonly heard birds within the eastern half of North America. **Please note**, this course does concentrate on Genera and species field identification. This is an excellent field course for learning how to identify based on visual cues such as body shape, size and the presence or absence of distinctive field marks.

Principles and concepts of Ecological Land Classification (ELC) Course
- (Practical) 40 hours: Fee = \$1200.00 (\$1000.00 CAD, if taken with 3 or more courses)

This is an excellent introductory course on the basic principles and concepts involved with classifying natural areas for management and conservation planning. Prerequisite courses are Level 1 and 2 FAT plants, Level 1 and 2 FAT birds. Students with an interest in obtaining employment with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), consulting firms or Conservation Authorities would be advised to take this course.

Principles and concepts of Wetland Evaluation Course
- (Practical) 40 hours: Fee = \$1100.00 CAD

The provincial evaluation system used to classify wetlands based on biotic and cultural factors for management and conservation purposes is emphasized so that participants learn how to delineate and classify wetlands. Prerequisite courses are Level 1 and 2 FAT Aquatic/wetland plants. Erosion control, classification and identification as also introduced. This course is excellent for anyone considering working for environmental consulting firms, the MNR and Conservation Authorities.

Level 1 Aquatic/wetland plant course - (Practical) 30 hours: Fee = \$700.00

This course features common aquatic/wetland plants of marshes, fens, bogs, deciduous and coniferous swamps. Emphasis is placed on identifying up to 15 - 20 families along with their habitats. It is an excellent course for those performing wetland evaluation work for Conservation authorities or the MNR.

Level 2 Aquatic/wetland plant course - (Practical) 30 hours: Fee = \$700.00

This course features common aquatic/wetland plants of marshes, fens, bogs, deciduous and coniferous swamps. Emphasis is placed on identifying up to 25 genera and 60 - 80 species, rare plants, hybrids, flowering times, distribution, status, rarity and ranking reporting requirements. It is an excellent course for those performing wetland evaluation work for Conservation authorities or the MNR.

Specialty Courses

Medicinal plants course (Practical) 30 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Learn the medicinal uses and properties of vascular plants; how to prepare tinctures, herbal teas and concoctions to alleviate ailments such as sore throat, tooth or head aches, depression, anxiety, etc. Plant uses from the Tharu people of southeastern Nepal and the Chocoi of Panama are emphasized. Medicinal plants as foods are also covered. This course is excellent preparation for somebody who is interested in becoming an herbal medicinalist or holistic doctor.

Rare trees and shrubs of Ontario course (Practical) 30 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Ontario's species at risk trees and shrubs are emphasized (endangered, threatened, vulnerable, or special concern). These are the trees/shrubs which are not emphasized well in contemporary field guides. By introducing you to flowers vs. flowering times, typical growth forms during all seasons - winter, spring, summer and winter you will acquire a large volume of field knowledge and experience, normally compiled from years of practical field work, in a very short period of time. Field trips to "hotspots" are arranged to search for living specimens.

Grasses, sedges, rushes of Ontario course (Practical) 30 hours: Fee = \$700.00

Twenty five genera of grasses, 4 main sedge genera and the main genera of rushes are examined to account for up to 85 species in the eastern half of North America. Tall grass prairie species are also studied with a field trip to one of Ontario's largest Tall grass prairie habitats.

Mushroom and Fungi Families of Ontario; A course on field identification (Practical) 30 hours: Fee = \$600.00

You will learn how to field identify 19 common mushroom and fungi families of Ontario which are typically found while conducting inventory work. A spore print collection is required to pass this course.