

THE WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Winter 2018

BOTANY SERIES

Splendor in the Grasses: A Natural History of the Plant Family Poaceae

Professor Jordan Teisher

This course will be held at the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**, 100 N. 20th Street (20th and Arch Streets), Philadelphia, PA.

Dates: 6 Tuesdays, March 27 – May 1, 2018

LECTURES ARE HELD FROM 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Course Description

The grass family, Poaceae, contains over 11,000 species distributed across the globe in virtually all habitats. It is arguably the most valuable plant family to humans, providing over half of the daily caloric intake of the world's people. This course is a broad survey of some of the basic biology of grasses including taxonomy, morphology, ecology, evolution, and domestication.

Course Schedule

- 1. Tuesday, March 27, 2018**
Introduction to grass morphology and classification.
- 2. Tuesday, April 3, 2018**
Grasslands and savannas.
- 3. Tuesday, April 10, 2018**
Bread, beer, and beef – grass domestication.
- 4. Tuesday, April 17, 2018**
A forest of grass – the woody bamboos.
- 5. Tuesday, April 24, 2018**
Phragmites – an uncommonly common reed.
- 6. Tuesday, May 1, 2018**
The grass in your backyard – a brief introduction to turf grasses.

There will be a field trip for identification of common grass species (the date and location will be announced at the class)

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 – make-up class (if needed)

Dr. Jordan Teisher is the Collection Manager in Botany at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. He has a PhD in Evolution, Ecology and Population Biology from Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on the systematics of grasses. This is his first year teaching for the Wagner.