

THE WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Fall 2016 Field Course
BOTANY SERIES
Wild City Plants
Professor Alfred E. Schuyler

This field course includes an initial meeting at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society followed by five Saturday field trips to different sites in Philadelphia.

Course Description

This field class will take 5 Saturday walks to different sites in Philadelphia, including Logan Square, Penn Treaty Park, FDR Park, and near 30th Street Station. The primary focus will be on plants that grow wild in disturbed habitats and places densely populated by humans. These plants, usually considered as weeds, are found in vacant lots, sidewalk cracks, highway and railroad corridors, lawns, and community gardens and parks. We will identify the plants using field guides and consider the ecological importance of wild plants in habitats disturbed by humans. A course overview and detailed location information will be provided at the first class. All locations are easily accessible by public transportation.

1. Thursday, September 22, 2016 - Orientation Class (6:30-7:30 PM)

The first class meets at the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** (20th and Arch Streets) to discuss the goals of the course and the location of field trip sites. Meet in the library (first floor).

Locations for Field Trips (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

- 2. Saturday, September 24, 2016 - Logan Square Café**
- 3. Saturday, October 1, 2016 -- Logan Square Café**
- 4. Saturday, October 8, 2016 -- Penn Treaty Park**
- 5. Saturday, October 15, 2016 -- FDR Park**
- 6. Saturday, October 22, 2016 -- 30th Street Station**

Recommended Identification Guides:

Rhoads, Ann Fowler, and Timothy A. Block. 2007. *The Plants of Pennsylvania*. Second Edition, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

Uva, Richard H., Joseph C. Neal, and Joseph M. DiTomaso. 1997. *Weeds of the Northeast*. Cornell University Press, Ithaca.

Other Relevant Literature

Pearce, Fred. 2015. *The New Wild: Why Invasive Species Will Be Nature's Salvation*. Beacon Press, Boston.

Pollan, Michael. 1991. *Second Nature*. Atlantic Monthly Press, New York.

Registration Information:

This course is limited to 25 students and pre-registration is required.

Pre-registration begins on Monday, September 12, 2016.

Register [online here](#) or call 215-763-6529 x23.

Location information will be provided at the first class. Due to space limitations, preference will be given to people who can attend all 6 class meetings.

Dr. Alfred E. Schuyler is Curator Emeritus of Botany at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. His research interests are in the systematics and ecology of rare plant species, the relationships between plant diversity and environmental quality, and the history of botanical exploration in North America.