



PRESSING PLANTS FOR ART AND SCIENCE



2024 Eagle Hill
Natural History
Science Seminars
on the coast of
eastern Maine

Instructor: Daniel Atha

When: August 25th - August 31, 2024

From the field to the herbarium and studio, botanist Daniel Atha covers the essentials of making museum-quality preserved plant specimens suitable for research, education and the arts. Students will gain the knowledge and skill to add to existing herbaria or develop one for use as a permanent floristic record, study-aid or graphic art project.

Drawing on extensive experience at one of the world's premier botanical institutions, this course is designed for the professional and advanced amateur who needs to document plants for biological inventories; taxonomy and systematics including DNA studies; wetland and rare plant surveys; regulatory compliance; natural products discovery; ethnobotany; and teaching.

Students will learn how to select the best material for preservation; how to use a plant press; how to arrange the specimen to optimize analysis and aesthetics; how to dry; what to record in the notebook; how to format a good specimen label; and how to mount plants using archival materials for long-term preservation. Students will prepare a minimum of twenty specimens, suitable for even the most discerning herbarium. Throughout this five-day seminar, students will have the opportunity to share their plant collecting experiences and query the instructor on a range of topics including herbarium management, floristics, taxonomy, publishing and outreach.



GENERAL INFO

CALENDAR

APPLY



about the instructor

Daniel Atha (danieleatha@gmail.com) retired from the New York Botanical Garden after three decades of plant collecting and research in all 50 states of the US as well as Vietnam, Bolivia, Mexico, Belize, South America and the Caucasus of western Asia. He has collected over 16,000 specimen numbers; published a book on the plants of Belize and over sixty scientific papers; discovered, described and illustrated the new species *Acalypha gentlei*, and; was the lead author on a botanical inventory of New York's Central Park. His work in research, conservation and art has appeared in the *New York Times*, *AP News*, *The Daily Mail*, *Vogue*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the journal *Nature*, *Taxon*, *Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society*, *Phytotaxa*, *Phytoneuron*, *Brittonia*, *Sida* and others. He lives in New York City and is currently writing a book on the ecological history of Central Park.