



Natural History Field Seminars, Workshops, and Courses at Eagle Hill on the Eastern Maine Coast

Peatmosses of North America

July 1 - 7, 2012

In this seminar we focus on the taxonomy and identification of North American *Sphagnum* species (peatmosses). *Sphagnum* differs from other mosses in virtually all aspects of their structure and life history. Lectures will cover the morphology and diversity of peatmosses, evolution and phylogeny of *Sphagnum* species, and the ecology of *Sphagnum*-dominated habitats. Individual lectures will focus on each subgenus of *Sphagnum* and how to distinguish related species. Participants will have ample opportunities to develop skills needed to identify North American *Sphagnum* (and other wetland bryophyte species as interest and time permit) in the field and laboratory. Field trips will target local peatlands with a diversity of *Sphagnum* species followed by guided microscopic identification of collections, supplemented by examination of species found in other parts of North America. Participants are encouraged to bring collections they have made in other geographic areas.

Jon Shaw (shaw@duke.edu) is a Professor of Biology at Duke University, Durham, NC. He has worked on the systematics, genetics, and ecology of mosses for almost 30 years. He edited the 2001 book, *Bryophyte Biology*, recently updated in a second edition (2009). He has collected mosses extensively in eastern and western North America, as well as in tropical and Southern Hemisphere regions. He is currently working on the systematics and evolution of peat mosses (*Sphagnum*). <http://www.biology.duke.edu/bryology/>.

Blanka Shaw (blanka@duke.edu) is a Herbarium Data Manager in the Duke University Cryptogamic Herbarium. She received her Ph.D. in bryophyte systematics from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, on the moss genus *Philonotis*. She has conducted extensive floristic and ecological work in temperate regions of both Northern and Southern hemispheres. She is a co-author, with J. Shaw and Lewis Anderson, of a peat moss revision for the southeastern United States (2009). She has substantial experience photographing mosses and liverworts in the field.

