



## Bryophytes and Bryophyte Ecology with Nancy G. Slack

August 15 - 21, 2010

This seminar is intended for participants who have some experience in the identification of bryophytes, or who have a strong interest in bryophytes and an understanding of field botany and ecology. Participants will learn to identify Maine bryophytes from an ecological point of view. We will study bryophyte communities in the field in a variety of habitats, including both coniferous and deciduous forest, bogs and other wetlands, and shorelines. Participants will sharpen their field skills by learning helpful ways to develop “search patterns” for moss and liverwort species. Further practice with microscope skills will help participants to learn how to approach identifying difficult species. Field trips to representative and varied habitats of coastal Maine will be taken to learn to recognize and evaluate bryophyte communities. A special feature of this seminar is a class inventory of the bryophytes of one diverse natural area, supporting participants who have research interests, or who may wish to conduct bryophyte inventories in their home areas. Lectures and discussion will include ecophysiology of bryophytes, special adaptations of mosses to particular environments, and recent findings in relation to bryophytes as climate change monitors. Bruce Allen’s *Mosses of Maine* will be useful for this seminar, as well as the ecological chapters of the new *Introduction to Bryophytes* (paperback) by Vanderpoorten and Goffinet.

Dr. Nancy G. Slack (slacknan@aol.com) is Professor of Biology at the Sage Colleges (NY), an ecological consultant, and is former President of the American Bryological and Lichenological Society. She conducts bryophyte workshops for Natural Heritage Program ecologists. She has published extensively on bryophyte ecology, species diversity, and community structure and also on old growth forests, bogs and fens, and epiphytes. She is the author of *85 Acres: A Field Guide to the Adirondack Summits* and *AMC Field Guide to the New England Alpine Summits* (new edition, May 2006). Her co-authored book, *Bryophyte Ecology and Climate Change* will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2010.



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