



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

Decapod Crustaceans of Northern Seas

July 22 – 28, 2012

This seminar provides an introduction to common and easily recognized decapod crustaceans found in temperate and boreal seas in the northern hemisphere. The emphasis is on morphology, taxonomy and natural history. Zoogeography, feeding, reproduction, larval development, behavior and species diversity will be covered. Useful regional and worldwide literature will be presented. Freshly caught specimens will be available for examination of the function of sensory, respiratory and locomotory structures. Most decapods of the coast of Maine are subtidal, so examination will take place in the laboratory. A reference collection of preserved specimens of all the groups to be covered will be available, as well as specimens for dissection. The seminar is directed at participants with some prior knowledge of crustaceans either through formal course work or practical experience. All equipment and materials are provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment (dissecting tools, needles, forceps, digital camera, etc.) and specimens they may wish to identify or study. Students will be given copies of all PowerPoint lectures with accompanying diagrams and photographs of fresh or living examples of decapod groups.

Mary K. Wicksten (Wicksten@mail.bio.tamu.edu) is a Professor of Biology at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas where she has taught for over 35 years. She has studied decapods widely, from southern Australia and New Guinea to Hawaii; Alaska to western Canada to the Galapagos Islands and Maine to the southern Caribbean. She is the author of a website on all decapods of the cold temperate eastern Pacific and over 130 shorter works on decapod taxonomy and behavior. She teaches invertebrate zoology, marine biology and biology of the Crustacea at the University as well as specialty courses for scuba divers. Dr. Wicksten is a National Fellow of the Explorers Club and a scuba diver with over 1275 logged dives.

