



NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF THE MAINE COAST: AN IN-DEPTH EXPERIENCE FOR FIELD BOTANISTS AND NATURALISTS



2024 EAGLE HILL
NATURAL HISTORY
SCIENCE SEMINARS
ON THE COAST OF
EASTERN MAINE

Instructor: Bob Wernerehl & Kristen Puryear

When: July 28th - August 3rd, 2024

Participants will learn about the fascinating flora and natural communities of the Maine Coast--from the Schoodic Peninsula to the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway. Plant identification will be a key feature, as well as the introduction to natural community types and how to observe and distinguish the characteristic biotic and abiotic features of these distinct assemblages of biodiversity. Combined with botanical knowledge, these broader ecological observations can be applied to understand natural communities widely throughout the Northeast.



Field trips will involve explorations into wild meadows, streamsides, salt marshes, bogs, lakeshores, rocky summits, and mossy forests as we gather new observations of vascular plants, mosses, lichens, seaweeds, birds, herptiles, mussels, pollinators and other arthropods. At each site, the ecology and identity of the natural communities present will be discussed, as well as the history, soils, hydrology, geology, and the interplay of factors shaping the present and future of these communities. The course will make good use of the iNaturalist platform in documenting species distributions and phenology, both important components of natural communities. The course is open to all levels of experience for those with a strong interest in botany and ecology.



Participants will be able to share their expertise with others in the course by assisting in identifications. A large selection of plant identification books will be available. Observations will serve as important and significant scientific contributions to the record of biodiversity by inclusion into the iNaturalist project "Down East and Acadia."

Plan on bringing a camera or smart phone with a camera, either a smart phone or a laptop computer, a hand lens of 10X or higher, clothing and footwear that can be worn during fieldwork off trail.

GENERAL INFO

CALENDAR

APPLY

about the instructor

In his seven years as State Botanist of Massachusetts, **Dr. Robert Wernerehl (wernerehl@wisc.edu)** has conducted numerous botanical surveys in Maine, especially along the coast, and up into New Brunswick. He has made over 1200 observations of over 700 species in iNaturalist, as well as making over 3200 identifications. Dr. Wernerehl has 30 years of conservation and botanical experience including conducting season-long rare plant surveys and ecological assessments in National Forests in the Upper Midwest. Previously, he served as an instructor at University of Wisconsin-Madison and 15 years as a private consultant. Dr. Wernerehl earned a PhD in Plant Ecology and a Bachelor of Science in Botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

For the past 18 years **Kristen Puryear (Kristen.puryear@maine.gov)** has been an Ecologist for the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), within the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. Through her work she conducts statewide inventories and mapping of rare plants and rare or exemplary natural communities and ecosystems, in particular within wetlands and tidal marshes. She regularly works with landowners, conservation planners, and land managers to incorporate this information into planning efforts that recognize the diversity of Maine's landscape and promotes long term stewardship and protection. Kristen holds a BS in Geology and Archaeology from Bates College and an MS in Plant Biology from the University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program.