



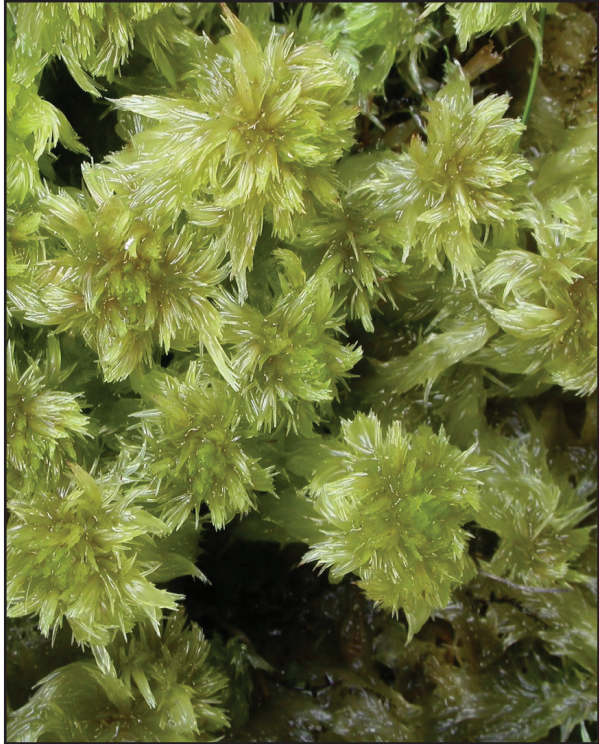
SPHAGNUM MOSSES: ECOLOGY, DIVERSITY, AND IDENTIFICATION



2025 EAGLE HILL
NATURAL HISTORY
SCIENCE SEMINARS
ON THE COAST OF
EASTERN MAINE

Instructors: Jon Shaw & Sean Robinson

When: July 6 - July 12, 2025



The focus of this seminar is 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.

[GENERAL INFO](#)

[CALENDAR](#)

[APPLY](#)



about the instructors

Jon Shaw (shaw@duke.edu) is a Professor of Biology at Duke University, Durham, NC, and Adjunct Professor in the Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University. He has worked on the systematics, genetics, and ecology of mosses for almost 50 years. He has collected mosses extensively in eastern and western North America, as well as in tropical and Southern Hemisphere regions, but has a particular love of northern and arctic areas.

Sean Robinson (Sean.Robinson@oneonta.edu) is a Professor of Biology at SUNY Oneonta and Curator of the Jewel and Arline Moss Settle Herbarium in Oneonta, NY. He has been conducting work on the population genetics, ecology, and systematics of bryophytes for over 20 years. The alpine summits of northeastern North America have been the primary site for his work, but he has studied and collected bryophytes throughout North America and parts of Europe.