



LIVERWORTS AND LIVERWORT ECOLOGY



2022 Eagle Hill
Natural History
Science Seminars
on the coast of
eastern Maine

Instructor: Dr. Blanka Aguero

When: June 19-25, 2022

In this seminar, we will focus on discovery and identification of liverworts in major Maine habitats. Participants will develop skills needed to discover liverworts in the field, and to identify liverwort genera using available literature and microscopy. Liverworts belong among the oldest living land plants. They exhibit a substantial variation in shapes, sizes and colors. Lectures in this course will cover morphology and diversity, ecology, biogeography and cryptic speciation, liverwort phylogenetic relationships, and an overview of internet resources related to liverwort diversity. Species collected during the seminar will be discussed within the context of bryophyte diversity of Northeastern North America. Daily field trips will target liverworts on diverse substrates in conifer and hardwood forests, peatlands, and disturbed man-made habitats. In the laboratory we will focus on understanding morphological terms through hands-on examination of plants using both dissecting and compound microscopes. We will identify plants that we collect using keys and other resources. Participants are encouraged to bring challenging specimens with them.

GENERAL INFO

CALENDAR

APPLY



about the instructor

Blanka Aguero (blanka@duke.edu) is a Collections Manager of Bryophytes in the Duke University Herbarium. She received her Ph.D. in bryophyte systematics from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. She has conducted extensive floristic and ecological work in Europe, North America, and around the world. She is a co-author, with Jon Shaw and Lewis Anderson, of a peat moss revision for the southeastern United States, published in 2009. She has substantial experience photographing mosses and liverworts in the field. Blanka is involved in the Bryophyte Portal management, and is currently digitizing specimens for the NSF-funded Global bryophyte databasing project. She has participated in a multi-institutional project aimed at reconstructing phylogenetic relationships across all of liverworts, with an emphasis on leafy groups (the liverwort tree of life).