



# MOSSES IN THE FIELD: IDENTIFICATION, ECOLOGY, STRUCTURE, AND CONFIRMATION



2023 Eagle Hill  
Natural History  
Science Seminars  
on the coast of  
eastern Maine

**Instructor: Jerry Jenkins & Sue Williams**

**When: June 11th-July 17th, 2023**

A systematic, mid-level course in the identification of mosses in the field. Our focus is on the mosses of the Maine Coast: who they are, how they built, how to identify them presumptively in the field, how to confirm identifications with diagnostic characters. And about the habitats they live in: the processes generating habitats; the characteristic species, common and rare, in each habitat; and the way the species arrange themselves within the habitats and create ecological patterns. Taught at or near Eagle Hill, visiting, depending on how the week goes, some combination of rocky and cobble shores, boreal forest, rocky barrens, coastal swamps and bogs, a rocky stream, and a freshwater marsh. Emphasizing close observation—field study, sketching, note taking—of species and habitats in the field; guessing at identifications using the Atlas moss guide and Sue's new Ecological Guide; confirming identifications, either in the field or in the lab, using diagnostic characters; and to studying and comparing whole plants, bottom to top, rhizoids to capsules, in the lab. Sue says "If you pick it, you have to draw and describe it." Jerry says, "Before you even pick it, you have to write down where it is and what it might be." And using a problem-based approach: We give you slides and specimens to compare, mosses to find and describe in the field, and specimens to verify with diagnostic characters; you work them out and report back to us. Open to anyone interested in a systematic approach to the identification of mosses in the field. Some previous work with mosses, either in a course or by yourself, will be (very) helpful. Fred Olday teaches a week-long introduction at Eagle Hill, 4-10 June; we teach a two-day moss intro at the Paul Smith's VIC, Paul Smiths, New York, 27-28 May. Either would be great preparation.

**GENERAL INFO**

**CALENDAR**

**APPLY**



## about the instructor

**Jerry Jenkins** ([jerrycreejenkins@gmail.com](mailto:jerrycreejenkins@gmail.com)) is a biologist and ecologist from White Creek, New York, with fifty-five years of professional experience in the Northern Forest Region, and the author of around 20 books and major reports on botany, resource geography, ecological history, and climate change. He founded the White Creek Field School in 1978, and, with Ed McNeil, the Northern Forest Atlas Project in 2012. He designs, writes, photographs, and illustrates the Atlas photo-guides and digital atlases; and is currently at work on the first two volumes of a new series of Atlas field guides, on woody plants and ecological patterns. You may see his work at [www.northernforestatlas.org](http://www.northernforestatlas.org).

**Sue Williams** ([rowemosser@gmail.com](mailto:rowemosser@gmail.com)) is a bryologist from Rowe, Massachusetts who has studied mosses for over thirty years, taught them for over twenty-five, and is currently one of the best field bryologists and bryo-teachers in the Northeast. She has collaborated with the Atlas project since the beginning, contributed to every phase of the development of our moss book and digital atlas, and has a new bryo-book, An Ecological Guide to the Mosses & Common Liverworts of the Northeast, coming out from Cornell University Press this spring. She finds neat things, every day, that the rest of us walk by, and usually knows what they are before she gets her lens out.