



Trees and Shrubs of Downeast Maine

July 19–25 2026

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In this seminar we will take a wholistic approach to plant identification, integrating information of many types, including habitat, growth form, bark, needles and leaves, fruit, twig arrangement, and buds. We will discuss aspects of dendrology, forest ecology, and plant anatomy as they relate to the identification of woody plants. Classroom discussions will center on natural communities of the Northern Forest and their woody plants, followed by visits to the natural communities. Participants will be encouraged to collect photographic and physical specimens for independent study and identification as well as to document species occurrence on iNaturalist or other community science projects.

Erika Mitchell (em63@cornell.edu) is a researcher, educator, photographer, and naturalist from Calais, Vermont. She is a frequent contributor to iNaturalist with a special interest in botanical observations. Her photographs have been published in Vermont Life and Arqueología Mexicana, as well as Environmental Science: Processes and Impacts, and other online journals and websites.