

The Botany and Ecology of the Great Northern Forest

Environmental Studies 211

2025 SUMMER I Course

Botany and Ecology

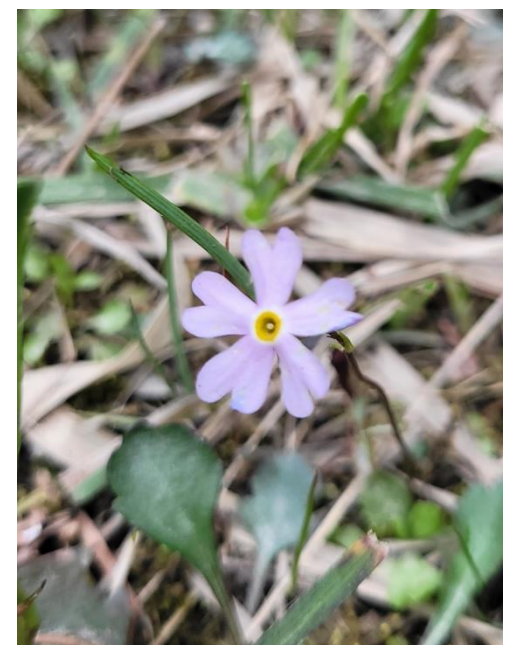
We will explore a variety of ecosystems including the Boreal Forest, the Northern Hardwoods Forest, Sphagnum Bogs, and Sedge Meadows. We will study the morphology, evolution, and ecology of many rare and threatened species including the Yellow Lady's Slipper (right), the Dwarf Lake Iris (below), and the Arctic Primrose (far right).



Yellow Lady's Slipper Orchid (*Cypripedium parviflorum*)



Dwarf Lake Iris (*Iris lacustris*)



Arctic Primrose (*Primula mistassinica*)

Course Schedule

T May 20 – Sat, May 24
LFC Campus

T, May 27 – Sat, May 31
Ridges Sanctuary in Door
County, Wisconsin

Sun, June 1 – Th, June 5
Camping in the North
Woods

Friday, June 6
LFC Campus

Course Description

The Great Northern Forest, alternatively called the Boreal Forest or Taiga, spreads across the vast landmass of the northern portion of the globe, through Alaska, Northern Canada, Greenland, Scandinavia, and Siberia. The ecology of this area is the front line of our current climate cataclysm, as the melting of the permafrost that supports it threatens to release enough methane to overwhelm the current concentrations of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. This course introduces students to the ecology of the Great Northern Forest through identification of native plant species, interspecies interactions, physical ecosystem services, and natural history of this biome. This course includes extensive field work on Lake Forest College's campus, in Wisconsin's Door County, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Students learn to identify between 100 and 150 species of wildflowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, and other plants, and learn the characteristics of 15 to 20 plant families. No prerequisites. This Summer Session course in 2025 is a three-week intensive course that includes two full weeks of travel to Wisconsin and Michigan.

Taught by
Professor
Glenn Adelson

Professor Glenn Adelson teaches in the Environmental Studies Department. Every year, he goes up to the Ridges Sanctuary to learn more about the plants and the ecosystems.



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