

Biology 393, Spring 2015

North American Field Trips in Biology

Overview: Biodiversity of the Boreal Forest is a field trip course focusing on the biological and ecological significance and diversity of the BWCA, a southern boreal forest wilderness area. To receive credit, students must enroll in and complete both the seminar portion and the field trip. A \$750 course fee is required, the first installment (\$350) due first class meeting and the balance (\$400) due last course meeting. Students will be required to complete forms related to Medical Information and Insurance, a Memorandum of Understanding and a Hold Harmless Agreement. Students will be responsible for some gear, food and miscellaneous expenses during the trip (fishing licenses, gift shop, etc).

Course meets: ~16 hrs of seminar, **Tuesday, 6-8p, Beginning March 3 and ending April 28**, Bessey 145 and May 12- 22* trip

Grading: letter grade upon completion of the seminar and trip portions.

Assignment: Each student receiving 393A credit will present and lead a review of a scientific journal article related to the BWCA, as well as participate in classroom discussions. Topics will be determined during week 3. The presentation order will be determined by draw and trade on March 24.

Rationale: Students in this course will learn about and experience the biodiversity and beauty of the BWCA. Topics covered in the seminar portion of the course will expose students to the history and physical characteristics of the area, types of organisms present, the ecosystem and how to experience the biological and physical properties of the area in a safe and ecologically responsible manner.

Seminar (week)

- 1- Mar 3 History of BWCAWA, Geology and Human Impact; forms
- 2- Mar 10 Introduction to Boreal Forest Biology
- 3- Mar 24 Fires and Change; Selection of articles
- 4- Mar 31 Lichens & Bryophytes, Gear
- 5- Apr 7 Field Guide, Route Information, fishing licenses
- 6- Apr 14 Journal article reviews (2), Map Use
- 7- Apr 23 Journal article reviews (2), Menu planning
- 8- Apr 28 Journal article reviews (3), rules/regulations, Last minute checks (balance due)

Trip Itinerary 8 days/7 nights in BWCA*

Tuesday May 12, 5 pm Gear Packing and Stowing

May 13 4am Van/Trailer will pick up people

Travel to Grand Marais via Twin Cities and Duluth, Lunch Twin Harbors -Culvers?

Supper and stop at Grand Marais, Arrive ~3pm

Tuscarora Lodge on Gunflint Trail by 5, permit, outfitter gear and canoe prep

May 14 6:30 rise and shine! Load gear. 7:30 am breakfast at lodge, 8:00 get gear to beach, 8:30 load canoes and shove off.

Entry point 51 (Missing Link): Round to Cherokee 8.4 miles paddling, 10 portages 5 miles, longest portage .6 miles(Snipe)

May 15-19 Explore Cherokee area: Frost, Gordon, Long Island, Town, Vesper, Temperance and Cherokee Creek.

Aquatic Sampling...Wildlife viewing, Exploring, Small mammal sampling

May 20 Recuperate and get ready for Exit

May 21 Paddle out to Round Lake, route (weather dependent) through Snipe or Ham .

Evening at Tuscarora bunkhouses. Showers!(movie after supper). Supper at Trail Center

May 22 Depart Tuscarora Lodge 7:30am, Breakfast in Grand Marais, Lunch Twin Cities area, Arrive Ames ~ 6-8pm

*We will make every effort to maintain the exit/return date, however, weather or emergency may require modifications to this plan. As such, a return date of May 23 or 24 may be necessary.