

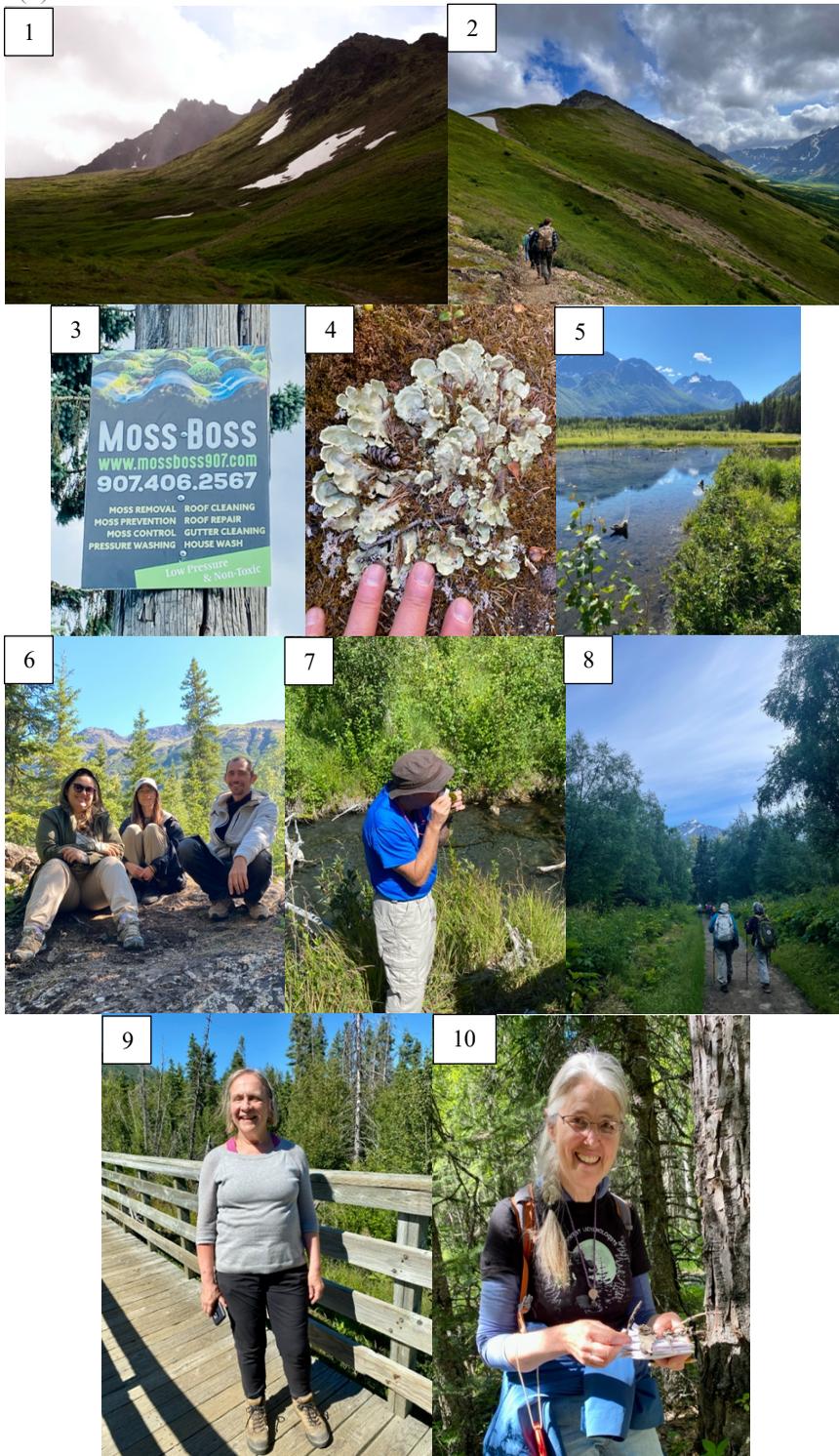
Field Trip Report

This past summer, the ABLS held its first in-person meeting in three years, together with the BSA and other botanical societies, in fantastic Anchorage, Alaska. The meeting was a fun and productive way for members to get reacquainted with old friends, as well as meet new colleagues. Our society offered two field trips, generously organized and led by NPS employees James Walton and Martin Hutten. (For photos, see next page.)

Saturday, July 23rd - ABLS field trip to Glen Alps. This spirited 4.5km hike began in the Glen Alps parking lot (670m), taking us through treeline mountain hemlock forest, down and across the South Fork of Campbell Creek, up through lush herbaceous treeline meadow with an abundance of wildflowers, and finally a series of switchbacks to our destination of Little O'Malley Peak and an alpine heath area known as The Ballpark (1000m). Here, many exhausted participants rested among *Thamnomia* and *Dactylina arctica* (aka Dead Man's Fingers), an enjoyable highlight for many. We explored a rich assortment of terricolous and saxicolous arctic and alpine lichens and bryophytes. Among the lichens, the *Cladoniaceae*, *Parmeliaceae*, and *Peltigeraceae* were well represented. Bryophytes such as *Andreaea rupestris* and *Tetralophozia setiformis* were exciting finds for the beginning bryologists, while *Macrodiplophyllum imbricatum* and *Polytrichum hyperboreum* were new to most seasoned bryologists on this trip. Fresh smoked sockeye salmon was enjoyed by all during a hillside lunch break, while the group passed around other charismatic finds such as *Solorina crocea*, *Nephroma arctica*, and *Cladonia borealis*.

Thursday, July 28th - ABLS field trip to Eagle River Nature Center. This field trip explored the trails surrounding the Eagle River Nature Center area (125m). The hike started out in white spruce-poplar forest with many lovely epiphytic lichens on the trees (e.g. *Lobaria*, *Usnea*, *Bryoria*, *Ramalina*, *Leptogium*, *Collema*) and terrestrial bryophytes in wet areas (e.g. *Climacium dendroides*, *Rhiziomnium*, *Brachythecium*, *Pellia*) as well as an occurrence of *Dicranum fragilifolium*, a boreal species that barely extends to the continental US. We then moved into a floodplain with a very open white spruce forest among large boulders. Here we encountered an abundance of delightful taxa, including *Nephroma expallidum* and *Saelania glaucescens* that were new to most participants. Species in the *Cladoniaceae*, *Parmeliaceae*, and *Peltigeraceae* were in high diversity and very photogenic. Bryophyte taxa of interest to the group included *Barbilophozia barbata*, *Lophozia longidens*, and a host of species in the *Hylocomiaceae* and *Dicranaceae*. The site featured no fewer than three sorediate *Hypogymnia*: *H. physodes*, *H. bitteri* and *H. austerodes* "group", and four species of *Ramalina*: *R. dilacerata*, *R. farinacea*, *R. obtusata*, and *R. roesleri*. Time flew by during our explorations, and as we hustled back to the shuttle bus to get an ambitious student to the airport, we tried not to get too distracted by beautiful mountain views; a small fen with several additional charismatic bryophyte taxa (e.g. *Sphagnum*, *Philonotis*, *Aulacomnium*); and watching a busy muskrat scurry around a small beaver pond.

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Photos from the ABLs 2022 meeting in Anchorage, AK. 1&2, alpine heath. 3, Moss Boss sign, downtown Anchorage). 4, Eagle River wetland. 5, *Nephroma arcticum*. 6, students Blaire Kleiman and Chrissie Herzog with Professor Tamir Klein. 7, Tom Phillips. 8, Nancy and Suzi. 9, Katie Glew. 10, ABLs President Elect Daphne Stone. Photos 1-2 from the 7/23 field trip; photos 4-10 from the 7/28 trip. All photos by Scott LaGreca except 1, 2 and 8, by Sophia BenJeddi.