

MOSSES of IVY CREEK
NATURAL AREA

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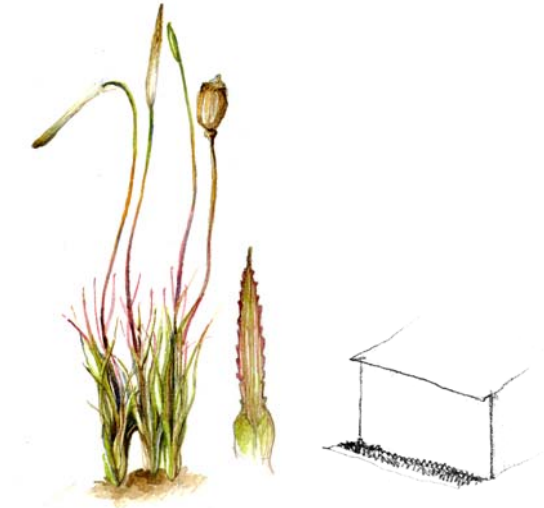
This is a brief illustrated look at the common mosses found at ICNA. A map and key is included to help you identify the species described here. The best time to observe mosses is in February and March after a spring rain.

Mosses are known as Bryophytes in the world of science. The mosses were some of the first organisms to make the crucial transition from water to land. They accomplished this feat with the addition of several new adaptations. Mosses developed protective coats around the gamete and spore producing capsules. They also developed specialized water and food conducting cells. The mosses were successful with their adaptations and set the stage for the further evolution of higher plants.



1
Polytrichum commune
Haircap Moss

Resembling a dense miniature fir forest, Haircap Moss is easily found around the barn and is the dominant moss on the Peninsula Trail.



3
Atrichum undulatum
Spineleaf Moss

A moss similar to *Polytrichum*, the Spineleaf Moss is distinguished with wavy leaves and a central midrib. Find it where the Blue Trail intersects the Field Trail midway down the native grass field north of the Barn.



2
Hedwigia ciliata
Hedwigia

This tufted dark green moss is found on large rocks off the Blue Trail at the far end of the native grass field north of the Barn.



4
Mnium cuspodatum
Mnium

Pale green translucent leaves and gooseneck sporophytes distinguish this attractive moss. Star Moss forms green mats on the ground and decaying logs in shady moist areas. Look for it over the bridge at Martin's Branch.



5

Fontinalis dalecarlica

Fountain Moss or Water Moss

A large dark green aquatic moss, Fountain Moss, grows in swiftly flowing brooks. To find this moss, follow the Red Trail towards Martin's Branch. At the bottom of the hill, turn left into the woods and proceed towards the stream. Fountain Moss will be attached to the rocks and roots in the water.



7

Bryoandersonia illecebra

Bryoandersonia

This common rope-like moss forms large mats on soils and rocks and is found on all trails at Ivy Creek.



9

Thelia asprella

Thelia

This light yellow-green moss grows on the base of dogwood and oak trees, giving a small tree the appearance of having a "sock" on.



6

Thuidium delicatulum

Fern Moss

The Fern Moss is very common at Ivy Creek Natural Area, appearing as fern-like mats in shady moist areas.



8

Leucobryum glaucum

Cushion Moss

This moss is found as pale green cushion-like clumps in shady and partly sunny areas and is best seen under the dense stand of red cedars on the Brown Trail. When dry, the Cushion Moss is easily dislodged from the ground and this may serve as a means of dispersal.



Bartramia pomiformis

Apple Moss

This moss is named for the apple-like shape of its spore capsule. Apple Moss is probably found at Ivy Creek on dry banks bordering the trails.

