BSU botanical school

The botanical school program includes 4 modules to study different types of communities for the period of 3-4 days throughout the year (spring, summer, autumn). In winter, visits to plant communities are difficult due to the death of terrestrial phytomass and weak identification of plants, only sightseeing tours in forest communities (the composition of the winter-green gymnosperms, the structure of the forest) are possible.

The study of plant communities in 4 modules ends with a certificate of taking the full course "Vegetation of Buryatia".

Purpose: Introduction to the diversity of plant species in the Baikal region (Western Transbaikalia). You will study species habitat and connection to certain environmental conditions, the degree of dependence on these conditions; the main systematic, ecological groups of plants, life forms of plants. You will establishes a link between the vegetation cover, climate, soils, and the animal world, as well as the relationship of ecological conditions with relief elements and the geological structure of the terrain.

All this should lead to understanding and knowledge of environmental processes in planning any human intervention in nature, the need for careful attitude to the vegetation cover as a component of a complex natural system and the need of scientifically based conservation of the nature of the Baikal natural territory.

Below is a preliminary program of botanical modules in Buryatia.

**Program of BSU botanical school (module № 1 «Steppes of Buryatia»)**

June 1,

8:00 - Arrival in Ulan-Ude

8.30 - Breakfast

11.00 - departure by minibus to Selenginskoye midlands with stops along the road for acquaintance with plants in different ecotopes.

12.30 - accommodation in the guest house “Olymp”

12.00-13.00 - lunch

14.00-18.00 - acquaintance with the steppe communities of the Zagustai Shaft.

The main types of steppes in the study area. Meadow, true, deserted steppes.

19.00 - dinner.

2 June

8.00 - breakfast

9.00 - Walking route. Lake Sulfat, Species composition and life forms of steppe plants.

12.00-13.00 - lunch

13.00 - the continuation of the excursion. Walking route. Lake Sulfat, Species composition and life forms of steppe plants.

19.00 - dinner.

3 June

8.00 - breakfast

9.00 - Departure by minibus to Lake Gusinoye. Comparative characteristics of plant communities in ecological series.

12.00-13.00 - lunch

13.00 - Tamchinsky datsan (Selenginskiy district).

19.00 - dinner.

June 4th

8.00 - breakfast

9.00-12.00 - Departure by minibus to Kyakhta. Stop along the road for exploring the plants of South Buryatia.

Datsan Baldan-Braibun.

12.00 - 13.00 lunch

13.00-15.00 - Kyakhta Local History Museum.

16.00 - departure to Ulan-Ude.

19.00 - dinner.

June 5th

8.00 - breakfast

9.00-12.00 - Departure by minibus to Merkit fortress (Mukhorshibirsky district). Stop along the road for exploring the plants of South Buryatia.

12.00 - 13.00 lunch (packed lunch)

13.00-18.00 - Acquaintance with relic communities of Siberian apricot.

18.00 - departure to Ulan-Ude.

20.00 - dinner.

**Program**

**BSU botanical school (Module 2 "Coastal forests of Lake Baikal")**

June 7 - June - the village. Tankhoy (Baikal Nature Reserve)

07 -08 June

8.00 - departure by minibus to the village. Tankhoy (Kabansky district) with stops along the road for acquaintance with plants in different ecotopes.

12.00 - 13.00 - lunch

13.00-15.00 - a visit center of the Baikal Nature Reserve, activities of staff in specially protected natural areas

15.00 -19.00- Hiking tour. Composition and structure of dark coniferous taiga of the Khamar-Daban range.

19.00 - dinner.

June 08

8.00 - breakfast

9.00 - Hiking tour. Composition and structure of dark coniferous taiga of the Khamar-Daban range.

12.00 - 13.00 - lunch

13.00 - Hiking tour

18.00 - departure to Ulan-Ude.

19.00 - dinner.

June 9th

8.00 - Departure by minibus to the settlement of Maksimikha / Goryachinsk (Pribaikalsky district).

10.00 - stop of the river Khaim, dark coniferous forest

12.00 - pos. Turka, dark coniferous forest, coast of Lake Baikal

13.00 - hotel accommodation in the settlement of Maksimikha / Goryachinsk

13.00 - 14.00 - lunch

14.00 - 17.00 Hiking tour. Composition and structure of dark coniferous taiga. Marsh vegetation.

17.00-19.00 -The resort of Goryachinsk. Visiting hot springs

19.00 - dinner.

June 10th

8.00 - breakfast

9.00-12.00 - Departure by minibus to Barguzinsky valley. Stop on the road to explore the plants of North Buryatia.

12.00 - 13.00 - lunch

13.00 - 18.00 Hiking tour to place of worship of the goddess Yanzhima

18.00 - dinner.

19.00 - departure to Ulan-Ude

**Program**

**BSU botanical school (module No. 3 "Wetland vegetation")**

12 June

8.00 - breakfast

9.00 - departure by minibus to the delta of the river. Selenga

12.00 - accommodation in a guest house in the village. Istomino

12.00 - 13.00 - lunch

13.00 - 18.00- Wetland vegetation of the delta of the river. Selenga. Walking routes.

19.00 - dinner.

June 13th

8.00 - breakfast

9.00 - departure by minibus to the Posolsky Monastery

12.00 - 13.00 - lunch

13.00-14.00 - boat ride on the embassy.

19.00 - dinner.

June 14th

8.00 - Breakfast

9.00 - departure by minibus to Selenginskoye middle mountains with stops along the road for acquaintance with plants in different ecotopes.

12.30 - accommodation in the guest house in Olymp.

12.00-13.00 - lunch

14.00-18.00 – a study of meadow and marsh communities.

19.00 - dinner.

June 15th

8.00 - breakfast

9.00 - Departure by minibus to Lake Gusinoye. Coastal and aquatic vegetation. Comparative characteristics of plant communities in ecological series.

12.00-13.00 - lunch

13.00-17.00 - Tamchinsky datsan (Selenginskiy district).

18.00 - dinner.

19.00 - departure to Ulan-Ude

**Program**

**BSU botanical school (Module 4 "Relics and endemics of Buryatia")**

June 17th

8.00 - breakfast

9.00-12.00 - Departure by minibus to Merkit fortress (Mukhorshibirsky district). Stop along the road for exploring the plants of South Buryatia.

12.00 - 13.00 lunch (packed lunch)

13.00-18.00 - Acquaintance with relic communities.

18.00 - departure to Ulan-Ude.

20.00 - dinner.

June, 18th

8.00 - departure by minibus to the village. Tankhoy (Kabansky district) with stops along the road for acquaintance with plants in different ecotopes.

12.00 - 13.00 - lunch

13.00-15.00 - visit to the visit center of the Baikal Nature Reserve, familiarity with the work of employees of specially protected natural areas

15.00 -19.00- Hiking. Relics and endemics of the dark coniferous taiga of the Khamar-Daban range.

19.00 - dinner.

June 19th

7.00 - breakfast

8.00-12.30 - Departure by minibus to the Erevan district. Stop on the road to explore the rare and endemic plants of South Buryatia