



Shenandoah Chapter Virginia Native Plant Society November 2016

Mission Statement:

We are a conservation organization dedicated to conserve Virginia's native plants and their ecosystems through education, advocacy and activities that promote appreciation, stewardship and appropriate use.

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- ❖ No events are currently scheduled.

Other Upcoming Events:

Sunday October 30 Stream Biological Discovery Outing Nelson County

Wild Virginia

Come out with us on Sunday, October 30th to learn more about the wonderful world of streams. Springs, creeks, and rivers are the arteries of our forests. They shape the landscape and are shaped by our activities on the land. We will search for aquatic invertebrates, talk about why they live where they do, and consider what their presence or absence at certain sites tells us about the overall health of the streams and our forests.

Usually found at the bottom of the stream, aquatic invertebrates include the many insects, crustaceans, mollusks, and worms that live most of their lives in water. Their presence is a very important indication of the stream's health as they are a fundamental part to the stream ecosystem. In Virginia's healthy streams, we hopefully will see many crayfish, mayflies, clams, mussels, dragonflies, and many others!

Come prepared to do some wading in shallow streams, if you're able. In any case come to see some beautiful streams in Nelson County and meet some interesting aquatic creatures. We'll meet at 11 a.m. and should have you home by 4 p.m. or so. For more information and to register contact: wildvirginia.org

Sunday November 13 6:00 pm America's Redrock Wilderness Presentation

Ivy Creek Education Building, Ivy Creek Natural Area

http://ivycreekfoundation.org/ivycreek/educ_bld.html

Charlottesville, VA 22903 America's Redrock Wilderness presentation documents citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This journey through redrock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands. The program was made possible through the generous donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahns who wish to pass this heritage onto future generations, including narration by Robert Redford.

Saturday, November 19. SSV/C'ville Joint Hike: Geology Hike; Stony Man-AT-Corbin Cabin in SNP. 7 miles, moderate with shuttle, 2,000 ft. elev drop, then gain 1,200 ft. Learn the geologic history of SNP; see several geologic formations, cascading streams and more. Begin at Skyland North, hike north on AT with a side trip to Stony Man summit, then north to Nicholson Hollow Trail, descend to Corbin Cabin and return to Skyline Drive via Corbin Cabin Cutoff Trail. Good views of Old Rag. Meet at Elkton Food Lion, Route 33 at 9:00 a.m. We will drive up Rte. 340 and enter the Park from Rt. 211. **IMPORTANT:** First 15 hikers to contact the leader will be able to join this hike. Leader: Malcolm Cameron, malcolmgcameron@gmail.com, (540) 234-6273, cell (540)705-7004.

Sunday November 20 Gathering at Vining Tract, Lydia. Help maintain and learn about the area. Contact patc.net/chapters/charlottesville

November-December Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU Annual Holiday Plants online sales. Contact jmu.edu/arboretum/events

Recent Events

October 2 Mushroom Hunt Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at JMU

Diane Holsinger led this search for mushroom on a beautiful early autumn afternoon. With the help of recent rains we saw a good number of mushrooms.

We saw: False Turkey Tail (*Stereum ostrea*); Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor*); Common Mycena, Bleeding Mycena (*Mycena haematopus*) it really bleeds when you squeeze the stem, Tree Ears (*Auricularia auricula*) which do look like ears, Brown staining polypore (*Tyromyces fragis*), Violet Toothed polypore (*Trichaptum bifforme*), Bell Cap *Panaeolus* (*Panaeolus campanulatus*), *Pouzarella nodospora* what is called a LBM (little brown mushroom, Clustered *Collybia* (*Clitocybula familia*), Crowded Parchment (*Lepiota Cebaestipes*). Diane also brought some mushrooms to show us that she recently picked, some from her yard.

A Mushroom for November and Thanksgiving (But Don't Eat It)

One of the most common mushrooms in our area is Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor*). A shelf mushroom found on dead hardwood logs and stumps, occasionally on conifers. It's a common mushroom that we can easily walk by, but when looked at closely it is really quite beautiful. Its cap colors are extremely variable but tend to be brown or reddish brown color. Sometimes it is more bluish, greenish or orange color. It forms sharply contacting concentric zones of color. These colored zones are often of different textures as well as color. The surface cap is finely fuzzy or velvety. The cap is up to 10 cm and is usually semicircular but can be circular and is flexible when fresh. The flesh is tough and leathery and is inedible. It belongs to the polypores and there are some similar ones –most commonly in our area False Turkey Tail. They all play an important role in decomposing wood.

References: "Turkey Tail" // www.mushroomexpert.com/trametes_versicolor.html; Michael E. Ostry et al., *Field Guide to Common Macrofungi in Eastern forest and Their Ecosystem Functions*, (Deaware OH: United states Department of Agrculture, 2010).



Turkey Tail is one of our most common mushrooms and not too difficult to identify.

False Turkey Tail (*Stereum hirsutum*)

Another shelf fungus that looks very similar to Turkey Tail. Also common, it is easiest to distinguish this phony from the real one by looking at its underside.



False Turkey Tail (*Stereum hirsutum*)



Underside of the cap in Turkey Tail has spores like the one above. False Turkey Tail has a smooth underside.

Photos from: <http://baynature.org/2013/11/28/can-tell-true-turkey-tail-imposter/>

Note: of course mushrooms are not technically plants belonging to the fungus kingdom but they are fascinating and absolutely essential for many of our native plants.