



2022 Eagle Hill Institute Online Natural History Seminars

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Canopy Lichens: Identification and Ecology

Gary Perlmutter

July 18th–July 27th, 2022

This seminar will introduce participants to the learning about lichens growing in the treetops, where habitats and growing conditions are very different than at or near ground level. This seminar will focus on the identification, biology, ecology of the flora of canopy lichens by studying newly fallen trees and fallen branches and twigs. Participants will learn terminology that describes characters of lichens and their lifestyles and how these characters are used to identify lichens. Participants will learn how to collect and prepare specimens so they can build a starter collection of their own. Identification techniques of chemical spot testing and microscopy will also be covered. Ecological topics such as lichen community succession and pollution sensitivity will also be discussed.

Required materials:

- A hand lens or similar magnifier with 10X magnification or higher (these can be purchased online or at a local hobby store for as little as \$6.99)
- One copy of Keys to Lichens of North America, revised and expanded by Irwin M. Brodo (available at Yale University Press for \$29.95 + shipping & handling: <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300195736/keys-lichens-north-america>)

Scheduling Details

July 18, 20, 22, 25, & 27
7PM–9PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:
<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

About the Instructor

Gary Perlmutter (gary.perlmutter@gmail.com) is an Associate and de facto lichen curator at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Herbarium (NCU). Originally from southern California, he first became interested in lichens and lichenology while studying at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG) as an independent researcher in 1996. Gary took his skills, curiosity and starter collection of about 25 specimens from a lichen workshop at SBBG to North Carolina where he has been active in collecting, studying and teaching lichen classes and workshops since his arrival in 2003. Gary is an Eagle Hill alumnus, having taken the Crustose Lichen workshop taught by Irwin Brodo in 2006. In 2016 Gary has earned a M.S. degree from North Carolina State University with the thesis: "Assessing Highway Pollution Effects on Forest Lichen Communities in Western Wake County, North Carolina, USA." Gary has published several papers in peer-reviewed journals and newsletters from 2005 to present, as well as managing the lichen collection at NCU.

