



Crustose Lichens and their Ecology

Gary Perlmutter

July 22nd – 31st, 2024

Crustose lichens are often the dominant form of lichens in many habitats, yet they are often overlooked as compared to the often larger and more conspicuous foliose (leafy) and fruticose (shrubby) lichens. This seminar will expose participants to the biology and diversity of crustose lichens with a focus in North America. Participants will learn terminology that describes characters of these lichens and their lifestyles and how these characters are used to identify species. Participants will learn how to collect and prepare specimens so they can build a starter collection of their own. They have the option to share specimens with other participants so these can be identified and discussed during the seminar. The citizen science platform iNaturalist will be used to build a seminar checklist.

Scheduling Details

July 22, 24, 26, 29, 31

7 PM–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>

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>))

Recommended materials

- Access to a dissecting scope and a compound microscope

About the Instructor

Gary Perlmutter is an Associate of 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 2005. 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. In addition to this seminar, Gary has taught virtual Eagle Hill lichen seminars since 2020.

