

Bryophyte and Lichen Technical Committee

December 30, 2015

Annual Report



Two species of crustose lichens from the genus *Caloplaca* colonizing small calcareous boulders in a side oats gramma grassland in Bedford County (Top image). *Psora pseudorussellii* (Bordered scale lichen) also on calcareous rock from the grassland documented only the second time in PA is uncommon (G4G5S1S3). (Photo credit: Scott Schuette, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program)

Scott Schuette, PhD
Chair, Bryophyte and Lichen
Technical Committee

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program
800 Waterfront Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us
www.waterlandlife.org

E: sschuette@paconserve.org
P: 412-586-2309

2015 Year in Review

1. Committee met a single time this year due to scheduling conflicts
2. Preliminary lists for bryophytes and lichens finalized
 - a. Lichens: 190 genera, 582 species
 - b. Bryophytes: 217 genera, 619 species
3. Preliminary ranks assigned to all species using NatureServe guidelines
 - a. Subsets selected for full vetting through the NS Rank Calculator and Climate Change Vulnerability Index
 - b. Results of these analyses will culminate in a formal conservation protections package submitted to DCNR by end of 2016
4. Identified poorly collected counties in the state for both bryophytes and lichens
 - a. Tentative plans for multiday foray in Northumberland, Union, Montour counties May 2016
5. Outreach efforts underway
 - a. One-day introduction to bryophytes and lichens workshop and foray planned for May 2016
 - b. PA Bryophyte & Lichen Biodiversity Project established to document bryophytes and lichens across the state through iNaturalist



Rhytidium rugosum on a shale barren in Bedford County. This PA uncommon (G5S3) species is indicative of calcium rich soils and grows on rocky outcrops. (Photo credit: Scott Schuette, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program)

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Polytrichum commune (above) growing among cranberries in the Algerine Natural Area in Tioga County. Below is an image of a lichen community growing on a boulder in the Columbus Bog, a glacial kettlehole bog in Warren County (Photo credit: Scott Schuette, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program)



Sphagnum sp. and *Polytrichum sp.* commonly found growing together in peaty wetlands. Some new research suggests peatland restorations require establishment of *Polytrichum* before *Sphagnum* is able to recover. (Photo Credit: Scott Schuette, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program)

Current BLTC Members

- Bryan Dolney, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- Dr. David Kravesky, Slippery Rock University
- John Kunsman, PA Natural Heritage Program
- Dr. James Lendemer, New York Botanical Garden
- Dr. Matthew Opdyke, Point Park University
- Dr. Tamyra d'Artenay, Penn State Shenango
- Dr. Hank Webster, Penn State DuBois

BLTC Goals for 2016

- Select test species cases to run through NatureServe Rank Calculator and Climate Change Vulnerability Index
- Develop recommendations for taxa in need of conservation protections
- Continue field work in regions of need

