

October 24, 2011



### PARK PICKS by

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Atrichum moss on yellow oak leaf

### Discovery Walk—An Introduction to Mosses

This past Saturday was perfect for adventure as we gathered at the South Mountain Reservoir for the last scheduled Discovery Walk for 2011. The forest is an absolute treasure trove as we soon found out. Not only did we find mosses, but numerous varieties of lichen and fungi.

Did you know that there are 12,000 moss species worldwide and that Pennsylvania has 350 of those species?



Climaceum tree- moss

**Moss**—small, herbaceous soft plant which absorbs water and nutrients through its leaves.

As we walked local botanist Claudia Steckel pointed out that the green on the rocks was lichen. Did you know there are 14,000 to 17,000 species of lichen worldwide and that approximately 350 are found in Pennsylvania?



They come in a variety of colors. We became keenly aware of what causes lichen to be blue versus green, and, we found yellow-colored as well as rose-colored lichen. Some are more prone to adhere to rocks while other on trees. And don't be fooled. Look closely; the black on some rocks may actually be lichen.

**Lichen**— an organism comprised of fungus and either green alga or cyanobacterium.

### Upcoming Events

**27 Oct—7:00 p.m. "Backyard Birds for Beginners"** presented by Dr. Barbara Malt, Vice President—Lehigh Valley Audubon Society. Meeting location: 2700 Parkway Blvd (stone house on the corner of Ott St. & Parkway Blvd.—next to the Malcolm Gross Rose Garden). Reservations required. [info@allentownparks.org](mailto:info@allentownparks.org) or 610-432-7275.



**Mushrooms (aka Fungi)**  
Classified as a "kingdom"



Walk participants were also fortunate to see a wide variety of mushrooms, in all shapes and sizes. The beautiful purple-red above were shaped as rosettes. We even saw puffballs with little orange-red mushrooms growing nearby. Truly a great afternoon of discoveries.



American Bryological and Lichenological Society (ABLS)

For additional information on these botanical wonders visit: [www.abls.org](http://www.abls.org)



For information about Friends events and programs contact us or visit our website [www.allentownparks.org](http://www.allentownparks.org).

**Thank-you for your support!**

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