

WVMN Class Description

Title:	NAMES, CLASSIFICATION, AND IDENTIFICATION
Objectives:	Make students comfortable with scientific names and phylogenetic classification. Give students the ability to identify plants and animals using taxonomic keys.
Class type:	Core curriculum
Time:	1 hour
Optimal season:	Any
Materials:	Printed keys, a selection of field guides and manuals, rulers, 10x magnifiers.
Expected outcomes:	The student will gain a basic understanding of scientific names, their proper form, use, and pronunciation. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the concept of phylogenetic classification, and learn the major taxonomic ranks (levels).2. techniques to identify plants and animals using taxonomic keys.

WVMN Class Outline

1. Necessity of having a system of names and a classification
2. Species definitions
 - a. Morphological
 - b. Biological
 - c. Cladistic
 - d. Cronquist's pragmatic definition
3. Hierarchical system of classification
 - a. Names and positions of levels, e.g., species, genus, family
 - b. Phylogenetic (natural) classification
4. Scientific names
 - a. Universal and unique
 - b. Structure and characteristics
 - c. Proper use
 - d. Pronunciation
5. Common names
6. Identification
 - a. Field guides, floras, manuals, etc.
 - b. Collections
 - c. Can be sent to a specialist for ID
7. Use of keys
 - a. Construction and use of taxonomic or dichotomous keys
 - b. Computer keys