

West Virginia Master Naturalist Class Description

Title:	TREES, SHRUBS, AND WOODY VINES
Objectives:	Explore the classification, diversity, ecology, and importance of woody plants in West Virginia
Class Type:	Core curriculum
Time:	3 hours
Optimal Season:	Summer, Fall
Materials:	Hand lens, field guides, plastic bags, plant press

The student will gain a basic understanding of

- some of the more common woody plants.
- what makes woody plants different, and clear up the confusion over deciduous, evergreen, and coniferous trees.
- how to collect and preserve woody plants.
- the importance of woody plants to humans and wildlife.
- how to approach further study, including helpful references.

WVMN Class Outline

1. Overview of woody plants
 - a. Woody versus herbaceous plants
 - b. Trees versus shrubs, shrubs versus subshrubs
 - c. Evergreen versus deciduous
 - d. Evergreen versus conifer
 - e. Winter dormancy and annual rings
 - f. Importance to wildlife and humans
2. Common West Virginia. forest trees
 - a. Oaks
 - b. Beech
 - c. Hickories
 - d. Black Cherry
 - e. Maples
 - f. Yellow poplar
 - g. Red spruce
 - h. Pines
3. Some common shrubs
 - a. Dogwoods
 - b. Witch hazel
 - c. Viburnums
 - d. Heath family
 - e. Hollies
 - f. Hawthorns
 - g. Juneberry or serviceberry
4. Some common woody vines
 - a. Grapes
 - b. Poison ivy
 - c. Virginia creeper
 - d. Pipevine
5. Woody plants useful to humans
 - a. Food

- b. Medicine
 - c. Cordage, basketry, etc.
 - d. Landscaping with native plants
- 6. How to collect and preserve woody plants
 - a. A complete specimen? Or a good description
 - b. Adequate collection data: location, date, collector, habitat
 - c. Pressing and drying
- 7. How to learn more
 - a. Books
 - b. West Virginia Native Plant Society and other organizations