



Charles W. Bier

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Biography:

Charles is a western Pennsylvania native and studied ecology at the University of Wisconsin. He has broad experience in regional flora, fauna, ecosystems and conservation issues. Much of his focus has been on rare and endangered species, natural communities and biodiversity conservation. Since 1981 he has worked for Western Pennsylvania Conservancy; first as part of the PA Natural Heritage Program, and now broadly providing science support across programs. He is a Research Associate at Carnegie Museum of Natural History in the Section of Invertebrate Zoology and serves on several state committees including the Governor's Invasive Species Council, DCNR's Ecosystem Management Advisory Committee and technical committees of the PA Biological Survey.

Abstract: Landscapes and Biodiversity of Penn's Woods

Pennsylvania was dubbed Penn's Woods early on and is also known as the Keystone State for its important role in the mid-Atlantic region. Spanning from the Ohio River to the Delaware, from Lake Erie sand dunes to the shale and serpentine barrens of the southern counties, the keystone includes enough biodiversity to keep any naturalist and conservationist busy for a few lifetimes. Using approaches of watersheds and ecoregions, this introduction will provide an overview of our biogeography, flora, fauna and range of habitats, along with a few sidebars of land use history. In addition to an overview of biodiversity, examples Pennsylvania's globally significant role in conservation will be presented along with a summary of how successful biodiversity conservation has been in Pennsylvania to date.

