



Shenandoah National Park
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Shenandoah National Park News Release

Release Date: February 20, 2015

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“Catch the Buzz” Research Grant Awarded in Shenandoah National Park

Luray, VA - Shenandoah National Park is pleased to award the inaugural Shenandoah National Park Trust Research Grant to Dr. Jessica Rykken, Associate with the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University, for her project: "Catch the Buzz: pollinator diversity, distribution and phenology in Shenandoah National Park". Dr. Rykken's work has several objectives that include documenting species, distribution, phenology, and host plant associations of bees and syrphid flies in the park. A benefit of her project will include protocols for extending this work to citizen science-led monitoring of pollinators in the future.

“Pollinators are clearly at risk nationally, and we are concerned about the fate of these key species,” said Jim Northup, Shenandoah National Park Superintendent. “The park has very little information about pollinators and their life history requirements. This project provides us with this vital information and the relative importance of each species. Dr. Rykken’s project will also allow us to establish long-term monitoring of pollinators while creating a new generation of citizen scientists and future stewards of the park.”

Research is one important tool used by National Park Service managers to successfully face increasingly complex issues and protect incredible park resources. The research grant program, funded by the Shenandoah National Park Trust, is designed to facilitate and encourage scientific research in the park by supporting field research in the physical, biological, ecological, and cultural sciences.

“Shenandoah National Park is a world-class outdoor laboratory, providing tremendous opportunities to learn about the inter-connectedness of the plant and animal life of our region, and what these connections can tell us about resilience to threats like invasive species and climate change,” said Susan Sherman, President of the Shenandoah National Park Trust. “The Shenandoah

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National Park Trust is proud to support robust research in our park through the Research Grant Program. We thank the Bama Works Fund of Dave Matthews Band, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge, Cadence, Inc. and individual donors, Evie and Reynolds Cowles for their tremendous philanthropy that made this research grant possible.”

To learn more about this project or how to apply for a grant in the future, go to <http://www.nps.gov/shen/naturescience/research-grant.htm>.

About the Shenandoah National Park Trust: The Shenandoah National Park Trust is a private non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the outstanding natural beauty and cultural heritage of Shenandoah National Park, for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations by fostering public awareness and education, encouraging private philanthropy, and seeking public support. For additional information regarding the Shenandoah National Park Trust visit <http://www.snptrust.org>.

About Shenandoah National Park: Established in 1935, Shenandoah National Park encompasses nearly 200,000 acres of Blue Ridge Mountain habitat, of which nearly 80,000 acres are Congressionally designated Wilderness; Skyline Drive, a National Historic Landmark and Scenic Byway; 500 miles of trails, many leading to waterfalls or breathtaking vistas; and Rapidan Camp, the summer White House of President Hoover. The park offers recreational opportunities year round; facilities are available spring through late fall. For more information about Shenandoah National Park, visit <http://www.nps.gov/shen/index.htm>.

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About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 405 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natl parkservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

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