Did you know...
...a lichen is a plant found on rocks or trees that is made of a symbiotic fungus and cyanobacteria?

History
Although the oldest fossil lichens in which both symbiotic partners have been recovered date to the Early Devonian Rhynie chert, about 400 million years old, as of 2010, scientists have determined that cyanobacteria date as far back as 2.7 billion years (2.7 giga-annum, 2.7 Ga).

Characteristics
It is estimated that 6% of Earth’s land surface is covered by lichen (“Metals, minerals and microbes: geomicrobiology and bioremediation,” Geoffrey Michael Gadd, Microbiology March 2010 vol. 156 no. 3 609-643):

Lichens are pioneer colonizers of fresh rock outcrops. Globally, they play an important role in the retention and distribution of nutrient (e.g. C, N) and trace elements, in soil formation, and in rock weathering.

Insoluble carbonates may be broken down by microbial attack. This is usually the result of organic and inorganic acid formation but may also involve physical processes. Various bacteria, fungi, lichens, cyanobacteria and even algae have been implicated. Such activity is evident on limestones and marble used in building construction, and also in natural limestone formations such as coral reefs, where limestone-boring cyanobacteria, algae and fungi are active in the breakdown process.

Web Site (and E-Group)
For more details about wildlife on the Bay Colony Club property (as well as Fern Forest and Anne Kolb Nature Centers), see:

http://southfloridawildlife.weebly.com