

West Virginia Master Naturalist State Conference

Chief Logan State Park and Lodge

June 9 – 11, 2017

The 8th Annual Master Naturalist Conference will be held Friday, June 8 through Sunday June 10 at Chief Logan State Park and Lodge. The Conference schedule, description of classes and Instructor Bios can be found on the home page of this site.

The Conference registration fee for 2017 is \$75 for early registration and \$100 if received after May 1. Lodging arrangements must be made directly with Chief Logan Lodge at (304) 855-6100 by May 9. Please identify yourself as part of the Master Naturalists by giving the **group code GS616** when you make your reservations.

Schedule

Friday, June 9, 2017

6:00 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk

8:00 a.m. Pre-Conference Activities begin

6:00 p.m. Picnic Dinner

7:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker, Randy Kelley, DNR Elk Restoration Project, Banquet Room

8:30 p.m. Social with light refreshments, Fireplace Lobby

Saturday, June 10, 2017

6:00 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk

9:00 a.m. Morning Classes begin

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Classes begin

6:30 p.m. Banquet Buffet Dinner

7:30 p.m. Remarks by Sissie Summers of DNR(State Parks): "Volunteer Opportunities with the WV State Parks"

8:30 p.m. Business Meeting

Sunday, June 11, 2017

6:00 a.m. Early Morning Bird Walk

9:00 a.m. Morning Classes begin

Boxed Lunch Options for Friday and Saturday

1. Vegetable Wrap (Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Cheese with Ranch Dressing on Flat Bread) with Chips, Cookie and Fruit
2. Turkey & Cheese on Wheat Bread with Chips, Cookie and Fruit
3. Ham & Cheese on Wheat Bread with Chips, Cookie and Fruit

Friday, June 8, Pre-Conference Activities

Early Morning Bird Walk 6:00 a.m. with Laura Ceperley

Hatfield McCoy Tour – Neil Warren

8:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Event Limit: 20 people)

Attendees will gather at Chief Logan Lodge to carpool in **4WD** vehicles to Williamson, WV.

Description: Folks who viewed the *History Channel's* 2012 miniseries “Hatfields and McCoys” will be able to visit the actual sites of much of the famous feud in both West Virginia and Kentucky. The tour will visit several Hatfield & McCoy sites, including: Randall McCoy’s home place and well; the Hog Trial Cabin and Election Day Fight site; Preacher Anse Hatfield’s burial site; the Pawpaw Tree site, where the three McCoy brothers were killed; the Battle of Grapevine site; the Ellison Hatfield cemetery, where Ellison, his wife Sara, their two sons, Floyd and Andrew and Ellison and Devil Anse’s parents along with two of their brothers are buried. The tour will stop at the Devil Anse Hatfield Cemetery, the burial site of Anse, his wife and children. Also, Aunt Betty McCoy’s-House and Rosanne’s Baby’s gravesite will be visited. The trip will end in Williamson. The tour will involve some walking up steep uneven hillsides so wear comfortable walking shoes. Donations of \$5 or more per person are requested to be paid to Neil.

Neil Warren worked for 35 years for the telephone company in the Matewan, West Virginia area. In his years of work, he has met many Hatfield and McCoy descendants. Neil has worked with local historians and Bill Richardson to assist in the filming of several documentaries about the feud. Neil accommodated the “Diggers” crew from National Geographic who filmed 2 shows on the Randall McCoy property. Neil and his family currently live on the Randall McCoy property where the house was burned and destroyed by the Hatfield raid on New Year’s Day, 1888. According to Neil’s wife Becky, “Neil loves the Hatfield McCoy history and has a head full of knowledge about it.”

Hatfield McCoy Country Museum Presentation – Bill Richardson

10:30 – 12 noon.

(Event Limit: 25)

Attendees will carpool from the lodge to the Hatfield McCoy Country Museum. **Directions to the Museum:** Take 119 South to Williamson. After 30 miles, turn left onto W. 4th Ave. Follow to the right as 4th becomes Ben St. After 0.2 miles turn right onto W. 3rd Ave. then watch for Prichard St where you’ll turn left. At the first cross-street, turn right onto W. 4th Ave. In 0.2 miles, turn left onto Harvey St./Hospital Rd. Then in 0.2 miles, turn left onto Alderson St. The Museum is located at 801 Alderson St.

Description: Bill Richardson will be discussing the industrial revolution and the way it changed the world. This “greatest upheaval in human history” will be viewed through the lens of coal – the fuel that started the industrial revolution. He will discuss how coal is mined, its role and what daily life was like for miners. The museum’s extensive collection of artifacts and objects will be used to illustrate the discussion. Another topic that can be covered extensively in the museum is the Hatfield McCoy Feud. The Hatfield McCoy Country Museum houses the largest collection of original artifacts from the Feud on display anywhere in the world.

Bill will tailor his presentation to the desire of the group. A donation of \$5 is requested from attendees and will go to support the AmeriCorps summer intern program at the Museum.

Bill Richardson is a world-renowned historian. He has appeared on CBS This Morning, CBS Sunday Morning, American Pickers, Nat Geo's Diggers, Discovery Networks' Blood Feuds and America: Fact or Fiction and the Travel Channel's Mysteries at the Museum and several History Channel documentaries. He also produced a 16-episode series for the History Channel called Hatfields and McCoys White Lightning. He was a contributing author to the Random House book, *The Appalachians*, the *West Virginia Encyclopedia* and has published both fiction and non-fiction. His work has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts. His documentaries are being used as teaching tools at major universities across the country, including UC Berkeley, Carnegie Mellon, Marquette, Penn State and others.

Tomblin Wildlife Management Area: Elk Driving Tour – Randy Kelley

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Event Limit: 15)

Attendees will gather at the Lodge and carpool in 4WD vehicles to the Wildlife Management area.¶

Description: While the Elk were once native to West Virginia, recent legislation has authorized the DNR to reintroduce Elk to the Southern Coal Fields area of the state. Partnering with the Conservation Fund, over 32,000 acres of land was acquired with another 10,000 acres leased in Logan County to establish the reintroduction zone. Twenty Elk from the western part of Kentucky have been transferred and are currently located in the Tomblin Wildlife Management area.

Randy Kelley, an Elk Biologist and the Elk Project Leader for the DNR will lead the tour to the newly introduced elk. Attendees should plan to carpool in 4-wheel drive vehicles as part of the tour will visit an active mining site.

Buffalo Creek Disaster – Billy Jack Dickerson

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Event Limit: 20)

Attendees will carpool from the Lodge to Man High School in Man, WV.

Description: On February 26, 1972, after several days of steady rain, the impoundments for the Buffalo Mining Company failed and released approximately 132 million gallons of black waste water through the narrow Buffalo Creek hollow. The 15- to 20-foot black wave of water gushed at an average of 7 feet per second and destroyed one town after another. In a matter of minutes, 125 were dead, 1,100 injured, and over 4,000 left homeless. The flood demolished 502 houses and 44 mobile homes and damaged 943 houses and mobile homes. Property damage was estimated at \$50 million.

Billy Jack Dickerson, Man High School Environmental Science teacher and flood survivor, will present a program about the Buffalo Creek Disaster at the little theater at Man High School. Buffalo Creek Watershed will give a tour of Buffalo Creek and explain the restoration projects that have been done to the creek. Participants will also be able to see the location where the impoundments were located and visit the Buffalo Creek Memorial that is located just outside the Town of Man.

Description of Classes and Instructor Bios

Saturday, June 10, All Day Classes

Project WET – Tomi Bergstrom

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 30)

Description: At the Project WET educator workshop, you will gain familiarity with the history of Project WET, the 2.0 Curriculum and Activity Guide and website. You will approach learning and teaching from an environmental and multidisciplinary perspective, providing a sampling of teaching strategies and activities that will help young people become aware of the environment, their impact upon it and their responsibilities for it. This is a fun and motivating forum that encourages educators to enjoy their own learning process! All attendees will leave the workshops with a Project WET certificate and a copy of the Project WET 2.0 Curriculum and Activity guide!

Tomi Bergstrom is the Project WET Coordinator and Western Watershed Basin Coordinator. She works for West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's Watershed Improvement Branch at the Charleston Headquarters. She graduated from Marshall University with a Masters in Biological Science and a Bachelors in Zoology with minors in Chemistry and Sociology. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast and enjoys backpacking, trail running, and rock climbing.

Nature Photography – Ellen Hrabovsky

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 15)

Description: This class is for beginners and intermediate level photographers who would like to make sense of his/her camera (whatever it might be.) Bring your camera(s) and three favorite photos for the class to review. We will go into the field after an introduction to the principles of photography and give the student plenty of time to explore and photograph what is seen. The goal of this class is to eliminate the intimidation invoked by a camera and develop an eye for a good picture (**selfies excluded**)

Ellen Hrabovsky: I have always loved the outdoors and teaching. As a youngster, I “borrowed” my mother’s camera often to explore the world around me. Somehow, I was led to the field of medicine. Life as a Pediatric Surgeon involved operating room photography and I then decided I really needed to learn more about cameras. Since retiring I have spent a lot of time outdoors, traveling, leading nature walks, working with the Master Naturalist program and taking pictures. I have completed two very intensive programs in digital photography through the NY Institute of Photography and have participated in multiple photography workshops. I do not do any of this commercially – I just enjoy the process and sharing it with others.

Saturday, June 10, Morning Classes

Early Morning Bird Walk 6:00 a.m. with Laura Ceperley and Jerry Westfall

What Every Master Naturalist Should Know about Soils – Stephen and Rosalie

Carpenter

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 20)

Description: This class will cover the material that every Master Naturalist should know about soils. It is a “must have course” for becoming a well-rounded naturalist. Students will learn that soils matter much more than they realize.

Stephen G. Carpenter, professional soil scientist. BS, MS WVU Agronomy. 35 years soil scientist with USDA. Currently, he is a private industry consultant with the Nicholas Putnam Group. ¶ **Dr. Rosalie Carpenter**, professor, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA. BA WV Wesleyan College; MA Marshall University; PhD West Virginia University

Bird Identification – Jerry Westfall

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 30)

Description: This course will help you learn how to identify the breeding birds of West Virginia and consists of a 1.5 hour PowerPoint presentation and a 2-hour bird walk, with special emphasis on “birding by ear.”

Jerry Westfall is the Assistant District Wildlife Biologist (D-6, Parkersburg) with the WV-DNR. He holds an MS in Wildlife Biology from Montana State University and a BS in Wildlife Management Resources from West Virginia University.

Medicinal and Edible Plants – Becky Linger

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.¶(Class Limit: 20)

Description: This class will consist of a walking tour of the state park where we will identify the various plants growing therein and discuss their useful properties, either as food, medicine or building materials.

Becky Linger is an Associate Professor at the University of Charleston and teaches about medicinal plants and folk medicine of Appalachia in addition to curricula on Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. She has given medicinal plants talks throughout West Virginia and had led several nature walks in the Kanawha Valley area. She holds a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Purdue University and a B.A. in Music along with a B.S. in Biochemistry from San Francisco State University. She also maintains a flock of very old, lazy hens.

Survival Techniques – Joe Adkins & Dana Rowsey

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 25)

Description: This class will introduce you to the elements of survival, including priorities of preparation, how to build a survival kit, fire starting, ensuring safe water, building a shelter, health and fitness, survival psychology and obtaining a opossum mindset that ensures self-reliance.

Joe Adkins has over 13 years of military experience as a nurse and combat medic. He is a Level 1 Sigma III instructor, a lover of the outdoors and a boxer aficionado.

Dana Rowsey has over 18 years with the Charleston Police force. He is the owner of Elk River Bushcraft and an instructor for the National Association for Search and Rescue and a Wilderness First Aid Instructor for the Red Cross.

Saturday, June 10, Afternoon Classes

Archeology of the Southern Coal Fields – Bob Maslowski

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 25)

Description: Beginning with Paleo-Indians about 10,500 BC the presentation will cover the prehistory and some of the historic archeology of the southern coal fields, highlighting significant sites and typical artifacts found on those sites. Adaptions to changing climate and social environments will be stressed along with the contributions of the southern coal fields to West Virginia Archeology. A detailed history of the Ogam petroglyphs will also be included.

Bob Maslowski holds a BA in Psychology Holy Cross College, and a Ph. D. Anthropology/Archeology University of Pittsburgh. He was an Archeologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington (Retired). Has done extensive archeological work in the Ohio Valley and worked in Trans-Pecos Texas, Israel, Cyprus, Vietnam and Laos. Adjunct Professor, Marshall University Graduate College.

Insects – Laura Miller

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 25)

Description: Insects are the largest group of animals on Earth. Learn why they're so successful through studying their fascinating morphologies, biology and behaviors. Learn basic insect morphology and diagnostic characteristics that help identify major groups of insects in the field only with the help of a hand-held pocket magnifying glass. This class is divided into a lecture and a field component. The field component includes a hands-on insect collecting and observation practice.

Laura Miller: I have worked as an entomologist for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture for over 20 years and I serve as the taxonomic entomologist and insect museum curator. Among other things, I participate in insect pest detection surveys and I'm responsible for the processing and target pest identification of the samples produced by these surveys. I obtained my bachelor's degree from the

National University of Mexico, in Mexico City and my master's degree from Marshall University, in Huntington, WV. I specialized in the study of Tingidae, commonly called Lace Bugs, which are one of my main passions within the study of insects, along with my passion for the study and enjoyment of nature in general. I have been teaching Master Naturalist lectures for over 10 years and also have given insect lectures to other nature groups and the general public.

Nature Interpretative Guide Heritage Steward Training – Doug Arbogast

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 30)

Description: This course is designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to engage visitors in a positive and constructive way with West Virginia resources. The course will provide training on effective interpretation techniques, which will contribute to more effective communication with the visitor. This course is designed to introduce participants to the principles of interpretation and help them develop and deliver an interpretive talk. Topics covered include the purpose of Interpretation, applying the concepts of topic and theme development, utilizing interpretive techniques to make communication meaningful, relevant, and enjoyable to your audience, and how to structure an effective interpretive talk. The course is designed to be interactive with participants practicing the development of effective themes and proper utilization of interpretive techniques related to topics of interest.

Doug Arbogast is Rural Tourism Specialist at West Virginia University in the Community Resources and Economic Development unit of the Extension Service. He is responsible for developing and delivering rural tourism development services. He works collaboratively with WVU faculty and students to promote sustainable development of tourism in West Virginia. His duties entail development of proactive applied research, teaching, and service programs in tourism development including sustainable tourism development, tourism planning, tourism management, regional competitiveness, agritourism, hospitality training, and interpretive guide training.

Wildflowers & Weeds – Mark Watson

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 20)

Description: An overview of plant biology including: Classification/taxonomy, Diversity of plants/broad classifications, Plant Anatomy/Form and function, Plant Ecology and the basics of Plant Identification/Collection. We will spend about half the time in the class room learning or refreshing the basic biology and anatomy of plants. This will allow you be more confident in observing plants and to be able to use your keys more effectively. We will then spend the remaining time on a short hike to emphasize the key characters used for identification of the different plant species we encounter.

Mark Watson: Associate Professor of Biology, University of Charleston, WV. Education: B.S. Biology and Botany Marshall U; M.S. Biology Marshall U.; PhD Botany University of Georgia. Passions: Plant Biology, Herpetology, Traditional Appalachian and Celtic Music. Ongoing projects: Effects of Invasive plants on salamander populations.

Sunday, June 11, Morning Classes

Early Morning Bird Walk 6:00 a.m. with Jerry Westfall

Nature Journaling – Becky Linger

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 20)

Description: This class will introduce the practice of nature journaling as a way to record your observations of nature to help you connect more deeply with your environment. We will explore the various exercises suggested by the Sierra Club and the Smithsonian in their “Nature Journaling” classes. Participants should bring a notebook to use as their Journal. We will also be discussing developing a “digital” nature journal using photography and references from credible websites as part of the structure of the journal.

Becky Linger is an Associate Professor at the University of Charleston and teaches about medicinal plants and folk medicine of Appalachia in addition to curricula on Biochemistry and Medicinal Chemistry. She has given medicinal plants talks throughout West Virginia and had led several nature walks in the Kanawha Valley area. She holds a Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Purdue University and a B.A. in Music along with a B.S. in Biochemistry from San Francisco State University. She also maintains a flock of very old, lazy hens.

Geology – Claudette Simard

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 25)

Description: Geology of West Virginia begins with 1½ to 2 hours of hands-on group activities using common West Virginia minerals and rocks. As these are identified, you will look for easy to find clues in the rocks to determine if they were deposited in streams, swamps, beaches, oceans, etc. more than 300 million years ago. From these clues, you will determine what the area's landscape was like during that ancient time and if the state has always been at its current geographic location. The second half of the workshop will be a slow-paced field trip on easy terrain where you will apply class information to the rock cuts in the park. We will also search for fossils *en route*.

Claudette Simard has been teaching a geology workshop for the Master Naturalist Program since its inception in 2005. Experience includes 18 years at the WV Geological Survey as an Economic Geologist and head of the Survey's Visiting Geologists at State Parks Program for 7 years. Using her M.S. in Geology from WVU, Claudette has been an adjunct faculty at Fairmont State University for 26 years teaching Geology and Earth Science courses to non-science majors. She especially loves the field component of teaching where everyone searches for clues of the area's ancient history and applies the information to how it affects our lives.

Mammals – Sheldon Owen

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Class Limit: 25)

Description: Come discuss the diversity and distribution of the mammals found in WV. We will discuss their ecology and natural history while demonstrating the role that mammals play in WV ecosystems. You will learn the general identification characteristics and methods used to observe, capture, and study mammals. We will have pelts and skulls on hand for closer investigation.

Sheldon Owen: Originally from Mississippi, Sheldon received his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Mississippi State University in 1998. He then attended the University of Georgia where he received his Master of Science degree in 2000. Sheldon continued his academic career by attending West Virginia University and earning his Ph.D. in Forest Resource Science in 2003. Sheldon then served as a Wildlife Disease Biologist for the National Wildlife Disease Program within USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services and then as a Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for the South Carolina Program of Wildlife Services. Sheldon is currently the Wildlife Extension Specialist for the WVU Extension Service. I appreciate all taxa of animals but mammals are near and dear to my heart.