

# Nature Stewardship in Action

## WVMN 2022 State Conference

Class Schedule and Descriptions

**Friday, July 8, 2022**

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6:00 am – 7:30 am **Early Morning Bird Walk with Laura Ceperley**

Meet at the entrance of the Lodge for a leisurely walk through the park listening to and identifying the local birds of the area.

### *Half-Day Events*

5:30 am – 11:00am **Elk Tour with Lauren Cole**

Meet in the Cardinal Room. Visit the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area with CLSP Naturalist, Lauren Cole, to view Elk in their native habitat. Carpooling required. *Limit: 15 attendees*

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Nature Hike in Chief Logan State Park with Lauren Cole**

Join Naturalist, Lauren Cole on a nature hike on the Woodpecker Trail.

### *All Day Events*

9:00 am – 4:00 pm **Kayaking on the Guyandotte River with Barry Curry**

Join Naturalist and retired DEP Program Manager, Barry Curry, on a nature tour of the Guyandotte River. You can bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent one from the local outfitter we will be contracting to carry us up river for put-in. \*\*\* May require additional fee for third-party outfitter \*\*\* *Limit: 15 attendees*

9:00 am – 4:00 pm **Forks of Coal Nature Preserve Tour with Diana Green**

Visit the Kanawha Valley's newest Nature Preserve and Center. Jack Workman and his wife Claudia spent a lifetime building their business and acquiring about 300 beautiful acres on the Kanawha County – Lincoln County line between the forks of the Coal River. Their shared goal was to create a place for wildlife education, conservation and appreciation of nature. After Claudia passed on in 2014, Jack decided to honor her memory by donating the 102 acres on the west side of Corridor G (U.S. Rt. 119) for permanent protection as a conservation area and development of a wildlife education facility to be named after her – the Claudia L. Workman Wildlife Education Center. The land was given to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources “DNR”) in 2016. Seven hiking trails now traverse the property across the ridges and along the river and there will be more trail building and development of exhibits explaining the history and culture of the Coal River watershed.

### *Evening*

5:00 pm – 7:30 pm **Barbecue Picnic at Shelter #2**

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm **Fire Ring Sharing Circle, Sam Muncy coordinating**

## Saturday, July 9, 2022

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### *Morning*

6:00 am – 7:30 am **Early Morning Bird Walk with Laura Ceperley**

Meet at the entrance of the Lodge for a leisurely walk through the park listening to and identifying the local birds of the area.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Native Bees & Making Bee Boxes with Steve Beckelhimer**  
**\*\*\*\$20 additional fee \*\*\***

While honeybees were brought to North America in the 1600s to provide honey and pollinate crops brought to the New World by European explorers, there were native pollinators already in the Americas pollinating native plants as well as the crops brought by the Europeans. This class will explore the native bees, how to attract and utilize them and will include construction of a nest for Mason Bees. *Limit: 20 attendees*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Transforming an Industrial Site into a Community Classroom: Dow Ward Hollow Wildlife Habitat with Karen Kish**

Ward Hollow Wildlife Habitat (WHWH) in South Charleston, WV, hosts a robust STEM education program that engages hundreds of local students and teachers each year. Partially located on a former industrial waste impoundment, the site spans 150 acres of wetland, forest, grassland, and open water habitats in South Charleston, WV. WHWH has maintained Wildlife Habitat Council Certification since 2007, based on ongoing species specific and habitat improvement projects. This class will cover the transition from industrial site to outdoor classroom, and our current and future projects. Participants will have an opportunity to try some fun, hands-on activities that are popular with our students.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Native Moths of West Virginia with Doren Burrell**

This is an introduction to the wonderful variety and biology of moths. There are more species of moths in West Virginia than butterflies and birds combined. We'll begin with some of the surprising details of moth biology and then we will learn the basic features for identifying moths, including a breakdown of typical features in the patterns on moth wings. If the weather is accommodating, we'll set up a light trap to lure moths and discover the variety that can be found in just one evening.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines with Joe Perdue**

Have you ever walked around the forest or looked out your window and wondered “what kind of tree is that?” or “is that an invasive vine/bush growing in my garden?” well, this intermediate level class is for you. Learn some of the basics of Tree ID or Ident-a-tree as we will call it, how to recognize woody vines, and find the answers to one of life's greatest questions the hard questions “is it a tree or a shrub?”. Then before it wraps up, we will dive into the newly discovered nature and relationships between the three.

9:00 – 12am:00 pm **Orienteering with Sheldon Owen**

Orienteering is the art of using a compass and map to determine your location. *Limit 25 attendees*

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **West Virginia Invasive Plants and Their Native Look-Alikes with Anne Wakeford**  
Invasive plants are becoming a significant problem in the State of West Virginia. Invasive plants threaten ecosystems by aggressively outcompeting native vegetation. This “takeover” by invasive plants frequently results in limited food and habitat for native wildlife. Therefore, it is important to know the similarities and differences between invasive species and their native look-alikes in order to prevent their spread, and thus control them. This event will start with a PowerPoint presentation so you can see photos and have a better idea how to determine the difference between invasive plant species and their look-alikes. We will then take a walk to look at some of these species at Chief Logan State Park in more detail and manually remove them by pulling, digging, cutting. Please wear a hat, long sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes. Bring a hand lens (to look at plants in detail), clothes you can get dirty, work gloves and your favorite tool and water. Other tools will be provided.

### *Afternoon*

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Build a Bluebird Box and Learn How to Place and Attract Bluebirds with Sam Muncy**  
**\*\*\*\$20 additional fee \*\*\***  
Make your own bluebird nesting box from a precut kit to take home. \_Will use a hammer to nail boxes together Instructor will be available to assist with assembly. A template and instructions for cutting and making more boxes will be handed out along with some information about how to attract bluebirds. View a power point presentation of bluebird sightings across West Virginia. If you have blue bird photograph(s) send them digitally to instructor and be ready to briefly describe your photograph(s) during the class. *Limit: 20 attendees*

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Finding & Stewarding Old-Growth Forests with Doug Wood**  
Primary old-growth forest tracts are still being found in West Virginia, and many, formerly logged tracts have now developed the full suite of characteristics that give them secondary old-growth forest status. Many of these tracts are on public lands and are extremely important to reaching sustainable goals of the 30x30 and 50x50 global initiatives, particularly protecting biodiversity and mitigating climate change. Myriad environmental services are provided by old-growth forests, but without targeted stewardship efforts, they remain unprotected. This class will equip you to identify old-growth forest tracts and protect them from degradation. *Limit: 10 attendees*

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Floating Nature Tour of the Guyandotte River with Barry Curry**  
**\*\*\*May require additional fee for third-party outfitter. \*\*\***  
Join Naturalist and retired DEP Program Manager, Barry Curry, on a nature tour of the Guyandotte River. You can bring your own kayak or canoe, or rent one from the local outfitter we will be contracting to carry us up river for put-in. *Limit: 15 attendees*

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Nature Journaling with Joe Perdue**  
When you think of “Nature Journaling” what normally comes to mind with the average person is setting on a rock by a stream or in the forest and writing about your last break up or how you wish you would have said (insert rant) to your boss at work. However, this is not what Nature Journaling is at all (thankfully). Join Joe Perdue as he takes us on a mild hike and embrace the true value of Nature Journaling in your forest, research area, or just around your flower garden. Learn to walk in the footsteps and legacy of great Naturalist who preceded us and document your world!

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Wildlife Center Tour with Lauren Cole**  
Visit the gazebo in the Wildlife Exhibit and meet Naturalist Lauren Cole to learn about native wildlife, wildlife habitats and the live animals in the exhibit area. Exhibit closes in rain or inclement weather. The exhibit is located at the end of a short drive from the museum/park office.

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Snakes of West Virginia with Jim Fregonara**  
Join us and learn about the fascinating world of snakes found throughout West Virginia. Snakes play an important role in our environment and they don't deserve the negative reputation most people give them. Hopefully, after this class, you'll gain an appreciation and better understanding of these misunderstood animals. Students will also learn how to identify the two venomous snake species we have in West Virginia

*Evening*

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm **Banquet and 2022 Certification Recognition**

7:30 pm – 8:00 pm **WVMN Business Meeting (all are welcome to attend)**

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm **Keynote Address, Sheldon Owen on Nature Stewardship and the NRCS**

9:00 pm – 11:00 pm **Moth Identification with Doren Burrell and Lauren Cole**  
Meet near the Gazebo to identify the moths that come to our light trap.

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## Sunday, July 10, 2022

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6:00 am – 7:30 am **Early Morning Bird Walk with Laura Ceperley**  
Meet at the entrance of the Lodge for a leisurely walk through the Park listening to and identifying the local birds of the area.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop with Jodi French-Burr**  
Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is one of the leading organizations in outdoor education and recreation – outdoor stewardship. This awareness workshop is for you if you are an outdoor professional, school teacher, camp counselor, community leader, and if you simply enjoy nature and what to keep it beautiful. Leave No Trace Master Educator Jodi French-Burr will lead this workshop exploring the Leave No Trace Seven Principles, including how these skills can be used in work as West Virginia Master Naturalists.

9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Harmful Algae Blooms in West Virginia with Danielle Nathanson**  
Toxic algae. Blue-green algae. Cyanobacteria. Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs). You've probably heard these buzzwords in the news or on social media, typically during the summer months, but what do they mean? How harmful is harmful? Is this something we could see in West Virginia? What do they look like? Can we do anything about them? These questions and more will be answered with topics ranging from the role of cyanobacteria in the Great Oxidation Event 2.4 billion years ago to the basics of algae bloom formation, cyanotoxin production, potential effects of HABs, as well as how to identify and report HABs in WV.

- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm **The American Chestnut Saga and the American Chestnut Foundation with members of the TACF**  
The American chestnut once dominated the eastern USA forest and was a very large tree known as “The Redwood of the East” In 1905 a blight began in New York killing the trees and by the late 1950’s there was 100% mortality. The largest environmental disaster in the history of the USA. Surprisingly American chestnuts are not extinct but grow from old roots only to succumb to the blight before maturing. Watch a 10 minute video outlining the saga of the American chestnut. Then enjoy listening to scientists from The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) learning how to identify native American chestnut sprouts, propagate seeds, plant and care for experimental orchards called Germplasm Conservation Orchards. (GCO’s) And learn of efforts by TACF to reintroduce this mighty giant of a tree back into the eastern forest.
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Gardening for Native Pollinators with Lauren Cole**  
Learn how to create a pollinator-friendly environment on your property. Native pollinator species have coevolved with native flowering plants so including those plant species that our insects can use as food is a must. You will be provided with an abundance of materials so that you can begin to design your own native habitat to support our local pollinators.
- 9:00 am – 12:00 pm **Propagating Mushrooms with Julie Schaer**  
Come explore ways to raise pet fungi and then eat them!
- 9:00 – 12:00 pm **Improving the Health and Value of your Woodlands with Mollee Brown**