

WV Master Naturalist Conference 2026  
Schedule

\*\*\*Draft 2/9 – Subject to Change\*\*\*

Friday, July 24

Morning 9 to noon

**Geology of Coopers Rock**

*WV Geo Survey staff*

20 group size

at Cooper's Rock

**The American Chestnut**

*Mark Double*

24 group size

Preston County High School and Arboretum

**Avian Conservation up Close**

*Katie Fallon & Jesse Fallon*

30 group size

Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia

Fee: There is an additional \$5 fee when registering for this session.

Comment: You will not have time to make the car pool for the snorkeling trip. The closest afternoon session is "Geology and Paleontology of West Virginia". Please plan accordingly.

**An Overview of Camp Dawson Conservation & Native Grasses Site**

*Rick Chaney & Ryan Snyder*

24 group size

Camp Dawson Class and Briery Mountain field site

**Small Mammal Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)**

*Mack Franz*

24 group size

Camp Dawson class and nearby site

Friday afternoon 1 to 4PM

**Geology and Paleontology of West Virginia**

*Elizabeth Rhenberg & Kenny Ashton*

25 group size

WV Geological and Economic Survey at Mont Chateau

**Pollinator Diversity and Conservation**

*Grace Savoy-Burke*

24 group size

Preston County High School and Arboretum

### **Cheat River Snorkeling & Fish Identification**

*Madison Ball & Lisa Maraffa*

30 group size

Cheat River near Rowlesburg

Donation: Friends of Cheat is requesting a \$5 per person donation.

### **Tree Identification & Key Characteristics in Cheat Canyon**

*Zach Fowler*

20 group size

Allegheny Trail

### **Natural Resources Conservation**

*Jeffrey Barr, Alex Lawson, Tom Wilsoncroft & Kyle Aldinger*

24 group size

Camp Dawson class and nearby site

### **Bird Conservation in West Virginia - Updates and Future Directions**

*Richard Bailey, Katie Garst & Casey Rucker*

24 group size

Camp Dawson

Friday evening

### **There is No Place Like Home? The Eastern Asian-Eastern North American Floristic Disjunction**

*Keynote by Zach Fowler*

Banquet room

### **Moth Night**

*Tucker Cooley*

Camp Dawson site

Saturday, July 25

All Day 9 to 4

“Peatland to Woodland Field Trip”

#### **Peatland at Cranesville Swamp**

*EllaRose Warnick*

15 group size

&

#### **Flora of Cathedral State Park**

*John Burkhart*

15 group size

“Woodland to Peatland Field Trip”

#### **Forest Stand Dynamics (at Cathedral State Park)**

*Dave McGill*

15 group size

&

**Peatland at Cranesville Swamp**

*EllaRose Warnick*

15 group size

**Compass & Orienteering**

*Sheldon Owen & Ben Spong*

25 group size

At WVU Forest Research Center near Chestnut Ridge Park

“Insect studies”

**Zoophagous Insects: Predators to Parasitoids**

*David Davis*

36 group size

Camp Dawson Class room

&

**Bug Walk at Uptop**

*David Davis & Tucker Cooley*

36 group size

Up-Top farm

Morning 7:30 to 10:30 (start with bird watching)

**From Canopy To Cut: Old Hemlock’s Wild Diversity**

*LeJay Grafious & Cheyenne Carter*

30 group size

At Old Hemlock Foundation

Morning 9 to noon

**Tour of Acid Mine Drainage Treatment**

*Brad Moore*

20 group size

Sites near Camp Dawson

**Dendrology Walk in the Woods**

*Mike Plevich*

10 group size

At Old Hemlock Foundation

**Introduction to WV Moths**

*Tucker Cooley*

24 group size

Camp Dawson Class

Afternoon 1 to 4PM

**Geology of near Rowlesburg**

*Clo Simard*

20 group size

Multiple sites near Rowlesburg

**eBird and iNaturalist**

*Rodney Bartgis*

24 group size

Camp Dawson class

**Trout: Who they are; What they eat and How Fly Fishers use that Information**

*Mike Vernon*

24 group size

Camp Dawson class

Evening

**Madtoms, Hornyheads, and Darters: Narratives on Central Appalachian Fishes.**

Keynote by *Stuart A. Welsh*

Camp Dawson banquet room

Sunday July 26

Morning 9:30 to 12:30 (plus travel time)

**Mushrooms of WV**

*Max Dubansky*

15 group size

Cathedral State Park

**Tour of the West Virginia Botanic Garden**

*Abigail Waugh & Leah Swift*

30 group size

West Virginia Botanic Garden

Morning 9 to noon

**Dendrology Walk in the Woods**

*Mike Plevich*

10 group size

At Old Hemlock Foundation

**A Trip to Wonder Falls on Big Sandy Creek**

*Braden Meyer*

20 group size

meeting site TBD

### **Geology of Coopers' Rock**

*Clo Simard*

20 group size

Near access to Cooper's Rock trails (not the main parking area)

### **West Virginia Seed Saving Initiative**

*Christine Zawaski*

24 group size

Camp Dawson class

### **Medicinal Plants I Have Known and Loved**

*Rebecca Linger*

36 group size

Camp Dawson class

Morning 9 to 12:30 (to allow for travel to Alpine Lakes)

### **Hydrology of West Virginia**

*Bernie Howe*

20 group size

Camp Dawson and Alpine lakes