

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 Burkhardt

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 Graffius & 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

Madtom, 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