

WV Master Naturalist Conference 2026
Schedule As of 4/9/26

Friday, July 24

Morning 6:30

Early Morning Yoga

Jamie Chambers, RYT-200

Morning 8 to 11 AM (field trips have travel time)

Birding the Cheat Canyon in Midsummer

Bob Dean

18 members

Meet 7:30, Travel 7:45 to Beech Run Trailhead

Morning 9 to noon (field trips have travel time)

Geology of Coopers Rock

WV Geo Survey staff

20 group size

Meet 8:00, Travel 8:15 to Cooper's Rock

Avian Conservation up Close

Katie Fallon & Jesse Fallon

30 group size

Meet 8:00, Travel 8:45 to 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 Frantz

24 group size

Camp Dawson class and nearby site

Friday afternoon 1 to 4PM (field trips have travel time)

Geology and Paleontology of West Virginia

Elizabeth Rhenberg & Kenny Ashton

25 group size

Travel 12:20 to WV Geological and Economic Survey at Mont Chateau

Pollinator Diversity and Conservation

Grace Savoy-Burke

20 group size

Meet 12:30, Travel 12:40 to Old Hemlock Foundation Classroom and field

Cheat River Snorkeling & Fish Identification

Madison Ball & Lisa Maraffa

30 group size

Carpool, Meet 12:30, Travel 12:45 to 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

Carpool, Meet 12:30, Travel 12:45 to Allegheny Trail

Natural Resources Conservation

Alex Lawson, Tom Wilsoncroft & Kyle Aldinger

24 group size

Camp Dawson class and on site soil pit

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

Morning 6:30

Early Morning Yoga

Jamie Chambers, RYT-200

All Day, 9-4 (field trips have travel time)

“Peatland to Woodland Field Trip”

Peatland at Cranesville Swamp

EllaRose Warnick

15 group size
Carpool, Meet 8:10, Travel 8:25 to Cranesville Swamp

&

Flora of Cathedral State Park

John Burkhart

15 group size
12:00 travel to Cathedral SP and lunch then field trip

“Woodland to Peatland Field Trip”

Forest Stand Dynamics (at Cathedral State Park)

Dave McGill

15 group size
Carpool, Meet 8:10, Travel 8:25 to Cathedral State Park

&

Peatland at Cranesville Swamp

EllaRose Warnick

15 group size
Lunch at noon then 12:25 travel to Cranesville Swamp

Compass & Orienteering

Sheldon Owen & Ben Spong

25 group size
Meet 8:10, Travel 8:25 to 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 & John Bocan

36 group size
Up-Top farm
Meet 12:30 at Camp Dawson, Travel 12:45 to Uptop

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
Meet 6:55, Travel 7:10 to Old Hemlock Foundation

Morning 9 to noon (Field trips have travel time)

Tour of Acid Mine Drainage Treatment

Brad Moore

20 group size

Carpool, Meet 8:30, Travel 8:45 to Sites near Camp Dawson

Dendrology Walk in the Woods

Mike Plevich

10 group size

Meet 8:20, Travel 8:35 to Old Hemlock Foundation

Introduction to WV Moths

Tucker Cooley

24 group size

Camp Dawson Class

Afternoon 12:45 to 4PM (to allow travel time to Waddell Chestnut Orchard)

The American Chestnut

Mark Double

24 group size

Camp Dawson Classroom

Meet 12:30, travel 12:45 to Waddell Chestnut Orchard

Afternoon 1 to 4PM (Field trips have travel time)

Geology of near Rowlesburg

Clo Simard

20 group size

Meet 12:30, Travel 12:45 to 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 6:30

Early Morning Yoga

Jamie Chambers, RYT-200

Morning (classes from 9 to noon, field trips have travel time)

Mushrooms of WV

Max Dubansky

15 group size

Meet 8:10, Travel 8:20 to Cathedral State Park

Dendrology Walk in the Woods

Mike Plevich

10 group size

Meet 8:15, Travel 8:30 to Old Hemlock Foundation

Geology of Coopers' Rock

Clo Simard

20 group size

Meet 8:10, Travel 8:20 to access to Cooper's Rock trails (not the main parking area)

A Trip to Wonder Falls on Big Sandy Creek

Braden Meyer

15 group size

Meet 8:15, Travel 8:30 to meeting site for carpool Big sandyCreek

Medicinal Plants I Have Known and Loved

Rebecca Linger

36 group size

Camp Dawson class

West Virginia Seed Saving Initiative

Christine Zawaski

24 group size

Camp Dawson class

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

Tour of the West Virginia Botanic Garden

Abigail Waugh & Leah Swift

30 group size

Meet 8:25, Travel 8:40 to West Virginia Botanic Garden

Morning 9 to 12:30 (start in class then travel to Alpine Lakes)

Hydrology of West Virginia

Bernie Howe

20 group size

Camp Dawson class

Travel to Alpine Lake