

WV Master Naturalist Conference 2026  
 Program at a Glance (PAAG) as of 4/9/26

**Friday, July 24**

6:30	<b>Early Morning Yoga - Jamie Chambers, RYT-200</b>					
8:00	<i>Meet 7:30</i>	<i>Meet 8:00</i>		<i>Meet 8:00</i>		
8:30	<i>Travel 7:45</i>	<i>Travel 8:15</i>		<i>8:15 to ACCA</i>	<i>Class &amp; Field</i>	<i>Class &amp; Field</i>
9:00 – noon	<b>Birding the Cheat Canyon in Midsummer</b> <i>Bob Dean</i>	<b>Geology at Coopers Rock</b> <i>WV Geo Survey</i>		<b>Avian Conservation up Close</b> <i>Katie Fallon</i> <i>Jesse Fallon</i>	<b>An Overview of Camp Dawson Conservation &amp; Native Grasses</b> <i>Rick Chaney,</i> <i>Ryan Snyder</i>	<b>Small Mammal Species (SGCN)</b> <i>Mack Frantz</i>
12:00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
12:30	<i>travel 12:30 WV Geo Survey</i>	<i>meet 12:30, travel 12:40 Old Hemlock</i>	<i>meet 12:30, Carpool 12:45 to Cheat River</i>	<i>meet 12:30, Carpool 12:45to Cheat Canyon</i>	<i>Class &amp; Field at Cam Dawson</i>	<i>Class</i>
1:00 – 4:00	<b>Geology and Paleontology of West Virginia</b> <i>Elizabeth Rhenberg</i> <i>Kenny Ashton</i>	<b>Pollinator Diversity, and Conservation</b> <i>Grace Savoy-Burke</i>	<b>Cheat River Snorkeling &amp; Fish ID</b> <i>Madison Ball,</i> <i>Lisa Maraffa</i>	<b>Tree Identification &amp; Key Characteristics in Cheat Canyon</b> <i>Zach Fowler</i>	<b>Natural Resources Conservation</b> <i>Alex Lawson,</i> <i>Kyle Aldinger,</i> <i>Tom Wilsoncroft</i>	<b>Bird Conservation in West Virginia</b> <i>Richard Bailey,</i> <i>Katie Garst,</i> <i>Casey Rucker</i>
4:00 – 6:00						
6:00	<b>Barbecue</b>					
7:00						
7:15	<b>Keynote – There is No Place Like Home? The Eastern Asian-Eastern North American Floristic Disjunction</b>					
	<i>Zach Fowler</i>					
8:30	<b>Moth night</b>					
	<i>Tucker Cooley</i>					

Saturday, July 25

6:30	<b>Early Morning Yoga - Jamie Chambers, RYT-200</b>						Meet 6:45	
	all day "Peatland - Woodland"	all day "Woodland - Peatland"	all day	all day			Meet 6:55 travel 7:10 Old Hemlock	
7:30							7:30-10:30AM	
8:15	Meet 8:10	Meet 8:10	Meet 8:10		Meet 8:30	Meet 8:20	<b>From Canopy to Cut: Old Hemlock's</b>	
8:30	Carpool 8:25 Cranesville	Carpool 8:25 Cathedral SP	Travel 8:25 WVU Forest	Dbl Class room & Field	Carpool 8:45 Nearby sites	Travel 8:35 Old Hemlock		Class
9:00 – 12:00	<b>Peatland at Cranesville Swamp</b> <i>EllaRose Warnick</i>	<b>Forest stand dynamics</b> <i>Dave McGill</i>	<b>Compass &amp; Orienteering</b> <i>Sheldon Owen Ben Spong</i>	<b>Zoophagous Insects: Predators to Parasitoids</b> <i>David Davis</i>	<b>Tour of Acid Mine</b> Drainage Treatment <i>Brad Moore</i>	<b>Dendrology Walk in the Woods</b> <i>Mike Plevich</i>	<b>Wild Diversity LeJayGrafious &amp; Cheyenne Carter</b>	<b>Intro to WV Moths</b> <i>Tucker Cooley</i>
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:30	travel Cathedral SP	travel Cranesville		Meet 12:30 Travel 12:45 Up-Top	Meet 12:30 Carpool 12:45 Rowlesburg	Class Room then Orchard At 12:45	Class Room	Class Room
1:00 – 4:00	<b>Flora of Cathedral</b> <i>John Burkhart</i>	<b>Peatland at Cranesville Swamp</b> <i>EllaRose Warnick</i>	Continue Orienteering	<b>Bug Walk at Up-Top</b> <i>David Davis Tucker Cooley John Bocan</i>	<b>Geology near Rowlesburg</b> <i>Clo Simard</i>	<b>American Chestnut</b> <i>Mark Double (To Waddell Orchard)</i> 24 members 1 guide	<b>eBird and iNaturalist</b> <i>Rodney Bartgis</i>	<b>Trout: Who they are, What they eat . . .</b> <i>Mike Vernon</i>
4 - 6								
6 - 7	Banquet							
7:00- 7:30	Business mtg & honors							
8:00 - 9:00	Keynote – <b>Hornyheads, Madtoms, and Darters: Narratives on Central Appalachian Fishes.</b> <i>Stuart A. Welsh, US Geological Survey, West Virginia Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit; West Virginia University</i>							

Sunday July 26

6:30	<b>Early Morning Yoga - Jamie Chambers, RYT-200</b>							
7:00								
7:30								
8:15	<i>Meet 8:10</i>	<i>Meet 8:20</i>	<i>Meet 8:10</i>	<i>Meet 8:15</i>			<i>Meet 8:25</i>	
8:30	<i>travel 8:20 Cathedral SP</i>	<i>Travel 8:35 Old Hemlock</i>	<i>travel 8:20 Coopers Rock</i>	<i>travel 8:30 Big Sandy</i>	<i>Dbl Class Room</i>	<i>Classroom</i>	<i>Travel 8:40 WVBG</i>	<i>Class &amp; Field</i>
9:00 - noon	<b>Mushrooms of WV</b> <i>Max Dubansky</i>	<b>Dendrology Walk in the Woods</b> <i>Mike Plevich</i>	<b>Geology of Cooper's Rock</b> <i>Clo Simard</i>	<b>A Trip to Wonder Falls on Big Sandy Creek</b> <i>Braden Meyer</i>	<b>Medicinal Plants I have Known and Loved</b> <i>Rebecca Linger</i>	<b>West Virginia Seed Saving Initiative</b> <i>Christine Zawaski</i>	9:30 - 12:30 <b>Tour of the WV Botanic Garden</b> <i>Abigail Waugh Leah Swift</i>	9:00 – 12:30 <b>Hydrology of WV</b> <i>Bernie Howe travel to Alpine Lake</i>
12:30								

**Green** – Carpool, travel to locations and lunch

Class & Field means a portion of the timeslot is in class (Usually 1 to 1.5 hours) and the rest in the field.