

WV Master Naturalist Conference 2026  
Schedule As of 4/29/26

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*

24 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

**A field trip to the WV Land Trust's (WVLT) Jenkinsburg Recreation and Natural Area**

*Doug Wood & Dianne Anestis*

12 group size

Meet 8:25, Travel 8:40 to Jenkinsburg Recreation Area

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