

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Training Course
FALL SCHEDULE 2021 – Subject to Change
Westmoreland County ~ Penguin Court

Class/Field Trip # & Day	Date	Proposed Topic	Location	Instructor	Time
Class 1 Tuesday	8/3	PA Master Naturalist Program Introduction; Ecoregions of PA; What is a Naturalist	TBD	Maeve Rafferty, Program Coordinator, PA Master Naturalist	6-8:45 PM
Class 2 Tuesday	8/10	PA Geology, Soils, Weather & Climate	Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier TBD	Scott Jones, PA Master Naturalist & retired PA Dept. of Environmental Protection Geologist	6-8:30 PM
Field Trip 1 Saturday	8/14	Introduction to Field Geology	Linn Run State Park	Scott Jones	Tentatively 8:30 AM – 3 PM
Class 3 Tuesday	8/17	Introduction to Ecology; Biological Classification & Naming	TBD	Tim Savisky, PA Master Naturalist & University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Professor	6-8:30 PM
Class 4 Tuesday	8/24	Water in the Landscape — Watersheds; Wetland Communities; Intro to iNaturalist	Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier TBD	Melissa Reckner, Program Director, Penguin Court	6-8:30 PM
Class 5 Tuesday	8/31	Intro to Upland Communities; Intro to Capstone Projects (Project Planning Assignment)	Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier TBD	Ephraim Zimmerman, Natural Heritage Program Science Director, Western PA Conservancy AND Maeve Rafferty	6-8:30 PM
Class 6 Tuesday	9/7	Introduction to Mammalogy and Herpetology	TBD	Samara Trusso, Wildlife Management Supervisor, PA Game Commission AND Ed Patterson, SW Regional Coordinator, PA Amphibian and Reptile Survey	6-8:45 PM
Field Trip 2 Saturday	9/11	Aquatic and Upland Communities	Linn Run & Laurel Summit State Parks	Ephraim Zimmerman AND Rachael Mahony, Environmental Education Specialist, DCNR's Forbes State Forest	Tentatively 8:30 AM - 3 PM
Class 7 Tuesday	9/14	Introduction to Entomology	Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier TBD	Andrea Kautz, Research Entomologist, Powdermill Nature Reserve	6-8:30 PM
Class 8 Tuesday	9/21	Introduction to Ornithology; Citizen Science (focus on birds)	TBD	Andrew Mack, Grants and Contracts	6-8:30 PM

				Coordinator, Penn State Altoona	
Class 9 Tuesday	9/28	Conservation Organization Intros & Volunteer Opportunities	Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier TBD	Representatives of conservation organizations	6-8:30 PM
Field Trip 3 Saturday	10/2	Field Ornithology, Herpetology, Mammalogy, and Entomology	Penguin Court	Andrew Mack; Ed Patterson; Dr. Jan Janecka, Assistant Professor Biological Sciences, Duquesne University; Melissa Reckner	Tentatively 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Class 10 Tuesday	10/5	Suburban & Urban Ecology; Green Infrastructure; Backyard Habitats	TBD	Dr. Mary Lavine, Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown	6-8:30 PM
Class 11 Tuesday	10/12	Interpretation and Field Instruction; Teaching to Diverse Audiences	Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier TBD	Lisa Meadows, Environmental Education Specialist, DCNR's Yellow Creek State Park AND Pat Snickles, Information and Education Supervisor, PA Game Commission	6-8:30 PM
Field Trip 4 Saturday	10/16	Restoration & Conservation Projects (Tour of local projects)	Ligonier, Latrobe and Greensburg areas	Josh Penatzer, Project Manager, Loyalhanna Watershed Association AND Melissa Reckner AND Jim Pillsbury, Hydraulic Engineer AND Andrea Halfhill, West Nile Virus Program Technician, Westmoreland Conservation District	Tentatively 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Class 12 Tuesday	10/19	Student Presentations	Tentatively Nimick Family Ed. Center, Ligonier	Maeve Rafferty	6-8:30 PM
Class 13 Tuesday	10/26	Being a PA Master Naturalist (Next Steps); Post-assessment & Evaluation	TBD	Maeve Rafferty	6-8:30 PM

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