

# TRI-STATE NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE FIELD TRIPS AND WORKSHOPS

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## **Saturday Full Day Trips**

- Ferry Hill
- Greenbrier State Park
- Ice Mountain
- Loudoun Heights

## **Saturday Morning Trips**

- Butterfly Alley of Blue Ridge Center
- Gathland State Park
- Harper's Ferry C&O Canal
- NCTC Plant Communities Walk
- Taylor's Landing
- Yankauer Preserve

## **Saturday Morning Workshops**

- Designing with Native Plant Communities
- iNaturalist: A 20th Century Tool for Observing Native Plants
- Maintaining a Field Sketchbook
- Tree ID: Lab Session and Walk

## **Saturday Afternoon Trips**

- Meet the Trees at NCTC
- Shannondale WMA
- Snavelly's Ford
- Snyder's Landing
- Yankauer Preserve

## **Saturday Afternoon Workshops/Talk**

- Beginning Botany
- Designing with Native Plant Communities
- Grass ID: Laboratory Session
- iNaturalist: A 20th Century Tool for Observing Native Plants
- Maintaining a Field Sketchbook
- The Pawpaw: Our Special Fruit

## **Sunday Workshop and Roundtable**

- Botanic Names
- Roundtable

## **Sunday Trips**

- Ball's Bluff
- Catoctin Mountain
- Cool Spring Preserve
- Cranesville Swamp
- Ferns of Snyder's Landing
- Ferry Hill
- Historical Antietam
- Ice Mountain
- Shenandoah University's Cool Springs
- Snavelly's Ford
- Taylor's Landing

## **Ball's Bluff**

"March" through Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, Leesburg, VA, in search of fall-blooming natives, giving thanks for battlefield preservation initiatives that have preserved natural communities from urban development. In the 1860's, this site was mostly meadow. Though a meadow is now maintained for interpretation, most of the park resembles other Potomac River parks with a diversity of native hardwood trees, understory trees, shrubs, vines, ferns and perennials. Unlike Potomac parks further East, the calcareous soils of Ball's Bluff support such plants as shooting star, (*Dodecatheon meadia*), twinleaf, (*Jeffersonia diphylla*), and Canada waterleaf, (*Hydrophyllum canadense*). About an hour from the NCTC.

**With Laura Beaty:** With Laura Beaty: A volunteer at the Potowmack Chapter's propagation beds since early 1990's, Laura has also served on the board since 2000. Previous jobs included work in U.S. Senate Committee Energy and Natural Resources and at the National Parks Conservation Association as "Cultural Resources Associate". She has degrees in history and horticulture and now provides native plant programs for garden clubs in N. VA, and to Master Gardener candidates at Green Spring Gardens.

## **Beginning Botany**

This workshop will be held outside in the "Living Lab" unless it rains, when it will move indoors. Focus will be on how to observe plants, identify features useful or identification, and explain family characteristics that help in identification. You will identify the trees and flowers found on the NCTC campus. Bring a hand lens and a copy of either *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* or a Tree ID guide of your choice. Some copies will be available to share.

**With Karyn Molines:** Karyn is a naturalist and educator, leading field trips and workshops for the Maryland Native Plant Society since 1991. She has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Maryland, College Park, a M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy from Johns Hopkins University, and a Certificate in Natural History from the Graduate School, USDA. Currently the Vice President of MNPS; her day-job is as the Division Chief for Calvert County Natural Resources.

## **Botanic Names**

They always told us to learn the botanic names of plants, and we always rolled our eyes at the notion of memorizing all that polysyllabic gobbledy-gook. But some of those names actually have meanings that are useful in identifying the plants. Come explore some of those meaningful botanic names (and lots of pretty pictures) with Margaret Chatham, who has a lifelong interest in words and how they come to mean what they do. We'll hope to increase both your knowledge and your comfort level with botanic Latin (and Greek!)

**With Margaret Chatham:** Margaret has collected a lot of plant name translations in her (all volunteer) work as editor of the VNPS Potowmack Chapter newsletter, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist, worker at the VNPS-Potomack propagation beds, member of the chapter's Grass Bunch, and Fraser Preserve Volunteer Visitation Committee Member who removes the invasive barberry shrubs in winter and wavy leaf basket grass in summer.

### **Butterfly Alley of Blue Ridge Center**

“Butterfly Alley” at the Blue Ridge Center has been managed for several years for field species by regular bush-hogging. In addition, there is a marshy area beneath a power line that has been kept open for many years. The flora will be at its peak in September, with a large variety of both grasses and forbs. The plant list includes about 200 species, including 18 species of Poaceae and 38 Asteraceae. A well-established colony of *Senna marilandica* usually hosts many sleepy sulphur butterflies. Easy walk in terms of distance and terrain. About 50 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Emily Southgate:** An historical ecologist, with a PhD in Botany and MA's in Botany and History, Emily teaches part-time at Hood College in Frederick, MD and often leads local botany field trips focusing on the relationship of flora to habitat. Currently studying 18th c. vegetation of local Counties, using land survey records, as well revising her book, “People and the Land Through Time: Linking Ecology and History.” (Yale University Press, 1997)

### **Catoctin Mountain**

Catoctin Mountain Park is part of a larger forested public lands complex that includes Cunningham Falls State Park, Frederick and Thurmont Watersheds, and Gambrill State Park. Many plants and animals, including several Maryland Threatened and Endangered species, thrive within this forest sanctuary. About an hour from the NCTC.

**With Joe Metzger:** A legend in his own time, Joe has been leading field trips for 40 years.

### **Cool Spring Preserve**

Cool Spring Preserve along Bullskin Run in Jefferson County, WV was recently acquired by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. It consists of 12 acres fringing a rare marl marsh in an agricultural landscape. The marl marsh hosts numerous state rare graminoids (sedges, rushes, and bulrushes) that will probably be shattered by the date of our visit, but we can look for skeletons. We can expect to see Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum* - S1) and Swamp Pennywort, (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* - S2), along with late season old field species adapted to high Calcium (dolomite) soils. About 35 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Jim Vanderhorst:** Since 1999, Jim has worked as vegetation ecologist for the WestVirginia Natural Heritage Program, stationed in Elkins and surveying the entire state. He works to sample, classify, describe, map, and protect the natural forests, woodlands, and wetlands of West Virginia. He also applies his graduate training in plant taxonomy (MS-University of Wyoming) to document the rare plants and flora of the state. Check out his new webpages: <http://www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/Factsheets/>  
About 35 minutes from the NCTC.

### **Cranesville Swamp**

Cranesville Swamp is a large mountain peatland that lies along the Garrett County,

Maryland - Preston County, West Virginia border. Nearly 1800 acres of the swamp, National Natural Landmark, have been protected by The Nature Conservancy, starting in 1960. The frost pocket topography, which leads to a shorter growing season, and wet soils of the swamp support a number of plants, including goldthread, small cranberry, creeping snowberry, mountain-holly, American mountain-ash, and red spruce, that otherwise largely disappeared from the region as climate warmed post-glaciation. Cranesville Swamp is the southernmost naturally-occurring site for tamarack in North America. *This site is a 2.5 hour drive west of the NCTC. Trip is expected to last several hours.*

**With Kevin Dodge:** Kevin Dodge received his B.S. in Biology from Southwest Missouri State University, his M.S. in Biology from Michigan Technological University, and pursued further studies at West Virginia University. He has worked since 1987 at Garrett College where he is Director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program. Kevin teaches various courses in natural history and ecology, including Wildlife Biology, Dendrology, Herbaceous Plant Identification, Plant Taxonomy, Herpetology, Regional Songbird Identification, and General Ecology.

### **Designing with Native Plant Communities**

Would you like to design your own native plant garden, but need some assistance? This intensive working session will bring you cutting edge ecological concepts and garden design wisdom, based on concepts we've learned from native plant communities. By the end you'll have a timeline, a written concept for your garden, a working plant list, a budget, and a rough planting plan. This is the perfect choice for the do-it-yourself gardener who needs some expert guidance. You should have a garden space in mind but it could be a pollinator garden, rain garden, or just an upgrade of your foundation beds.

**With Vincent Vizachero:** Vincent is a native plant advocate and consultant in Baltimore. He previously managed Herring Run Nursery, a native plant nursery. His focus is on lecturing, environmental education, and social media management for environmental nonprofits. You might think the fact that he studied economics at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and finance at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business would make him a bit of a geek. You'd be right.

### **Ferns of Snyder's Landing**

Massive northeast facing limestone bluffs tower above the Potomac River downstream of Snyder's Landing along the C&O Canal towpath. On this generally easy hike, we should see about 15 native species of ferns living in rock crevices and soil pockets on and around the bluffs just above the C&O Canal. Species to find include *Dryopteris intermedia*, *D. marginalis*, *Polypodium virginianum*, *Cystopteris bulbifera*, *Asplenium rhizophyllum*, and *A. trichomanes*. A stop at nearby Rumsey Monument State Park will provide an opportunity to see *Asplenium ruta-muraria*, *Pellaea atropurpurea*, and *Woodsia obtusa*. About 30 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Carl Taylor:** Carl holds a Ph.D. in botany from Southern Illinois University. He worked many years at the Milwaukee Public Museum assisting with the development of exhibits, conducting research, and serving as head of the Botany Department. Carl has

taught university courses in general biology, plant taxonomy, and local flora. Currently a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, DC.

### **Ferry Hill**

The Rich Cove and Slope Forest at Ferry Hill is considered to be one of Maryland's finest examples of this natural community type. From the summit of the site, we will traverse the exceptional, old-age Rich Cove and Slope Forest overlooking the C&O Canal and Potomac River. Descending from the forest, we will walk along the base of the cliffs and the towpath to see a diversity of evergreen ferns, bryophytes, and other plants growing on the limestone cliffs. About 30 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Rod Simmons:** Natural Resource Manager and Plant Ecologist for the City of Alexandria, Virginia; Rod has extensively surveyed the flora and natural communities of the mid-Atlantic region. He is a Research Associate with the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution; a member of the Virginia Botanical Associates and numerous other organizations, and works closely with the Virginia and Maryland Natural Heritage Programs. Rod is a regular trip leader for many organizations.

**And Beth Johnson:** Beth is an MNPS Board member and former Treasurer whose interest is in Lepidoptera and Odnata. She organizes the Howard County Dragonfly count.

### **Gathland State Park**

Hike on South Mountain Along the AT: Our field trip will begin at Gathland State Park (MD) on the ridge of South Mountain, about 30 minutes from the Conference Center. We will explore the oak-hickory forest here, using the Appalachian Trail as our footpath heading north. South Mountain's plant life will be our focus, but we'll also listen for bird activity and watch for other wildlife, including late-season butterflies, salamanders, and whatever else we might find. Expect some uphill/downhill hiking and rocky, uneven and/or muddy conditions underfoot. We'll spend the first 1.5 hours of the field trip walking at a fairly leisurely pace. We'll then more speedily retrace our steps back to the starting point for a round trip of app. 1.5- 2 miles. About 30 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Stephanie Mason:** Senior Naturalist at the Audubon Naturalist Society in Chevy Chase, MD, where she teaches naturalist history classes for adults and leads nature-based field trips and workshops in the DC-metro area and beyond.

### **Grass ID Laboratory Session**

Identifying grasses and grass-like plants can be intimidating because it requires familiarity with specialized descriptive terminology and assessing very small morphological features. Demystify this process in a workshop to answer the basics, like "How do I know if this is a grass, a rush or a sedge?" Tool up on terms used by the *Flora of Virginia* keys; (What are lemmas, anyway?!), and become familiar with some common and not so common natives and non-native grass species. This will be held in a microscope-equipped lab at either Shepherd University or at NCTC, TBD.

**With Andrea Weeks:** Andrea is professor of botany at George Mason University and director of the Ted R. Bradley Herbarium. She teaches plant biology courses, conducts plant systematics research, and is currently managing the digitization of multiple

herbaria in the Commonwealth. Images of these Virginian herbarium specimens are viewable through <http://www.sernecportal.org/> and Notes from Nature – Plants of Virginia (<http://www.notesfromnature.org/>). She is currently serving as a director in the Systematics and Biodiversity Science program at National Science Foundation.

### **Greenbrier State Park**

“Trees, Flowers, and Fruits of the Forest” Greenbrier State Park is representative of one of the world’s most ancient and diverse ecosystems—the temperate broad-leaf forest of the Appalachian/Blue Ridge mountains. Situated on the lower slopes of Maryland’s South Mountain, this 1,407 acre park is dominated by oak-hickory forest with its characteristic flora. In addition, riverine species can be found along its stream fed lake. We will follow easy to moderate trails to experience some of the different habitats in the park, and take time to appreciate nature’s strategies for seed dispersal. We also can expect to see a variety of late flowering plants and some autumn color in the trees.

About 30 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Sandra Bloom:** An instructor and workshop leader for Potomac Valley WV Master Naturalists, Sandra is also a former Seasonal Naturalist for Greenbrier State Park and a Nature Blogger. **And Gary Delise:** A Master Naturalist active at Cunningham Falls, Gary holds a BS from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

### **Harpers Ferry C&O Canal**

Walk on the Appalachian Trail on the C&O towpath east of Harpers Ferry seeing flora and fauna on the Canal and the banks of the Potomac. Among many other plants, Goldenrods and Asters will be blooming in profusion; we will attempt to differentiate.

About 30 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Richard Stromberg:** Richard is a Virginia Master Naturalist, as well as being a VNPS Piedmont Chapter board member and newsletter editor. He has a comprehensive knowledge of native plants. Richard is a regular hike leader for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and also helps to maintain the trails, as well being a Shenandoah NP Adopt-an-Outcrop rare plant monitor.

### **Historic Antietam**

Walking the Antietam battlefield today is a calm and peaceful exercise. Its serenity belies the carnage that swept over the landscape on September 17, 1862, the bloodiest single day in American history—23,110 casualties in twelve hours of battle. Take a walk along the Antietam Creek and through the forests and fields on the southern end of the battlefield, and along the way, hear stories of the common soldiers who fought on the battlefield, bringing a human face to this picturesque piece of nature. History is the focus of this trip. About 15 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Kevin Pawlak:** Director of Education for the Mosby Heritage Area Association and a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Antietam National Battlefield. Kevin is a 2014 graduate of Shepherd University. His first book, *Shepherdstown in the Civil War: One Vast Confederate Hospital*, was published in 2015.

## **Ice Mountain**

Come explore “Nature’s Refrigerator,” a Nature Conservancy preserve whose special geology gave sanctuary to an unusual assemblage of boreal plants. We will enjoy both the mountain’s history and its natural history. At a slow pace, we will walk to the Preserve and follow its two sloping trails, 3 miles in all, down to the North River and up to the top of North Mountain. The trail is narrow and steep in places. You have an option to return to your car after the first half of the event. About one hour and fifteen minutes from the NCTC.

**With Kristin Zimet** on Sunday: Kristin helped to start the docent program for The Nature Conservancy at their Ice Mountain Preserve. She has also led plant walks for Shenandoah National Park, Smithsonian Journeys, the State Arboretum of Virginia, the Virginia Master Naturalists, and the Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, in which she is an active member.

**And TBD on Saturday.**

## **iNaturalist: A 20th Century Tool for Observing Native Plants**

Learn to use iNaturalist to explore, record, and share observations of native plants. In this workshop you will learn how to create an account, and post your observations with an iPhone, Android, and the web, and discover the observations of other iNaturalist users. You will learn how to create your own projects and field guides while considering their possibilities and limitations, and also learn communication tools for websites, blogs and microblogs.

**With Laura Sebastianelli:** Laura Sebastianelli holds an M.S. in Ecological Teaching and Learning from Lesley University. She is a naturalist and educator with over 20 years of experience leading discovery-based programs in the practice of natural history.

## **Loudoun Heights**

Loudoun Heights is the second highest mountain overlooking Harpers Ferry. The trail features a waterfall and three overlooks, including a 900 foot bluff, and provides spectacular views of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, Harpers Ferry and surrounding mountains. The trail traverses mountain ridges and a power line easement which offers floristic diversity. Trip members will spend most of the time walking through side slope and ridge top Appalachian forests dominated by chestnut and scrub oak with good quality understory featuring southern harebells, sweet Joe Pye weed, Indian cucumber and Allegheny stonecrop. The trail traverses moderately difficult terrain with total elevation change of about 1,800 ft over 6.5 miles. About 30 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Charles Smith:** Charles is an ecologist and naturalist with 25 years of experience in natural resource management. He is a native of Arlington Virginia, a US Army veteran, board member of the Virginia Native Plant Society and the Prince William Wildflower Society, and an instructor for five chapters of the Virginia Master Naturalists. Charles leads walks and delivers talks to diverse groups on numerous topics including ecological restoration.

**Maintaining a Field Sketchbook** - Have you ever started a field sketchbook but ended up with incomplete pages and inconsistent entries? This class with botanist and

botanical artist Lara Call Gastinger will teach basic plant identification; how to observe and document plants; and how to successfully maintain a sketchbook over the year. This class is for all levels. Students should bring a blank unlined journal, pencil and pen to participate. Small portable watercolors are optional. You might like to bring a foldable chair.

**With Laura Call Gastinger:** Chief Illustrator for the Flora of Virginia, Lara is a botanical artist from Charlottesville, Virginia. She earned her MS in Plant Ecology from Virginia Tech. Lara has not only exhibited at the Royal Horticultural Society show in London but was awarded the highest honor of a gold medal. Her work has been accepted into the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in the new Native Plants of the Mid Atlantic.

### **Meet the Trees**

The NCTC campus has a wide range of deciduous forest and Potomac River bottomland, and is home to many significant oaks, hickories, tulip trees, and a spectacular old pecan as well as pawpaw, cucumber magnolia, and a basswood Kentucky coffee tree. We'll also see a few trees suffering damage from Emerald Ash Borer. This will be a walk suitable for both beginners and experienced dendrologists. There is some gently rolling terrain.

**With Carrie Blair:** A member of the Piedmont VNPS Chapter for 25 years, Carrie has led hundreds of field trips focused on trees throughout the seven counties of her chapter and in Maryland.

### **Plant Communities at NCTC**

“Natural and semi-natural habitats of the National Conservation Training Center.” Explore the floodplain and upland habitats of NCTC. Depending on the desires of the group, this can be a 3-mile or 5-mile hike, including some rocky areas off trail. We will provide a vegetation map of the grounds and discuss the historical land use, natural disturbances, geology, and soils that have shaped the current vegetation. We will also provide a floristic list based on past surveys of NCTC that we can use as a guide and make additions to for posterity.

**With Jim Vanderhorst:** Since 1999, Jim Vanderhorst has worked as vegetation ecologist for the West Virginia Natural Heritage Program, stationed in Elkins and surveying the entire the state. He works to sample, classify, describe, map, and protect the natural forests, woodlands, and wetlands of West Virginia. He also applies his graduate training in plant taxonomy (MS-University of Wyoming) to document the rare plants and flora of the state. Check out his new webpages: <http://www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/Factsheets/>

### **Shannondale Wildlife Management Area**

We will visit an area of limestone cliffs along the Shenandoah River, and then visit another area of the WMA that has more acidic conditions. If time permits we may visit a broader floodplain area. Fall blooms will be at their peak, and we will also see ferns and woody plants, including some with berries and drupes. This trip is easy to moderate, not much elevation but potentially rocky surfaces or mud. Some trails are steeper, but will be optional. About 30 minutes from the NCTC.



**With Sally Anderson:** Past president of VNPS and currently president of the Piedmont Chapter. Board of the Flora of Virginia Project. Master Naturalist botany instructor. Resident of Frederick co. VA for 29 years.

### **Shenandoah University's Cool Spring**

This walk will focus not just on plants, but also on general natural history: various insects, fungi, and interactions that are taking place. The trail is a 2.5 mile paved loop around a former golf course leading from riverside to (steep!) mountainside to see a variety of plant communities, wet and dry, field and forest, stable and in transition. Birds and butterflies in profusion. About 50 minutes from the NCTC, in Winchester, VA.

**With Mary Jane Epps:** An Assistant Professor of Biology at Mary Baldwin University, Mary Jane earned her Ph. D. at the University of Arizona, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at North Carolina State University in 2015. As an ecologist with a strong emphasis on natural history, her research explores a wide range of interactions between plants, fungi, and insects.

### **Snavely's Ford**

The Snavely Ford Trail along Antietam Creek is known as "THE wildflower hike" in Antietam Battlefield National Park. On one side we'll see scenic Antietam creek through a rich floodplain forest (with large sycamore, red and silver maple, black walnut, spicebush). The other side edges an upland slope dominated by a well-developed native oak/hickory forest on limestone, with many rock outcrops and a diverse understory. We'll pass through varied habitats, from cultivated field/early succession field to mature forest, with diversity in herbaceous vegetation in each seral stage. With the exception of the initial gradual descent into the stream valley, and the relatively short and steep ascent out at the end, this two-mile loop is easy walking on well-maintained, natural surface floodplain trail. About 25 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Carole Bergmann:** Forest Ecologist/Field Botanist for Maryland National Capital Park & Planning, Past President of Maryland Native Plant Society; Founder of Weed Warriors; Montgomery Co Forestry Board member; Grad School USA Natural History Field Studies instructor; field trip leader and botanical lecturer for many area groups including Audubon Naturalist Society and MNPS.

### **Snyder's Landing**

Limestone bluffs harbor uncommon plants including walking fern and maidenhair fern as well as rare northern white-cedar trees. We should also see a good number of composites and other fall-blooming flowers. Walking is mostly level. About 17 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Kirsten and Dwight Johnson:** Kirsten is president of Maryland Native Plant Society. Dwight is a regular field trip leader for MNPS and other organizations.

### **Sunday Morning Roundtable**

How can we collaborate to boost conservation?

**With Alan Ford:** President of the VNPS Potowmack Chapter, indefatigable weed warrior and dispenser of bonhomie. Winner of last year's Conservation Hero Award.

### **Taylor's Landing**

Taylor's Landing is at Mile marker 80.9 on the C&O Canal. The canal features level gently winding paths shared with bicyclists. We will do the botany shuffle, examining the diverse flora of the canal, venturing as far as time allows and then reversing our tracks. We'll flex our ID skills on fall blooming asters and goldenrods, as well as seeking the more unusual of the canal's vines, shrubs, and trees. About 20 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Rochelle Bartolomei:** Manager of the Native Plant Program at Pope Farm Nursery, part of Montgomery County Parks; Rochelle collects seeds of local ecotype native plants on park property and propagates them for use at nature centers, in storm water facilities, and in restoration projects. Native plant stock gardens are maintained on the farm in demonstration beds and a thriving volunteer corps puts in many hours to produce thousands of native plants for use in the county.

### **The Pawpaw: Our Special Fruit**

Celebrate the Pawpaw in our native landscape - throughout Eastern North America. The Pawpaw is our largest edible native fruit, weighing as much as one pound, possessing a sweet tropical taste. Neal Peterson will explore Pawpaw's life cycle and ecological niche, and its potential in home gardens. His research has focused on developing superior fruits so that people can enjoy Pawpaws throughout the humid temperate zones. We will have fruit.

**With Neal Peterson:** Neal grew up in southern WV, tramping the woods as a kid. He learned to love nature, and to identify the trees, flowers and birds. He studied agriculture, genetics, and ag economics at university, but his real love was plants. After encountering the Pawpaw, Neal began a life-long love affair, and has been devoted to bringing it into the garden of cultivated plants.

### **Tree ID: Lab Session and Walk**

Become a tree detective and take your tree identification skills to the next level! You will learn to identify trees in all seasons in this combination of lab work and an outdoors tree walk. Review tree ID basics as well as advanced winter ID concepts. This workshop will be held in a microscope-equipped lab, either at Shepherd University or at the NCTC; TBD. The walk will be held at same location, terrain will be easy to manage by all in either place.

**With Rodney Dever:** Professor at Shepherd University.

President of the West Virginia Native Plant Society: Eastern Panhandle section.

**And Carrie Blair:** A member of the Piedmont VNPS Chapter for 25 years, Carrie has led hundreds of field trips focused on trees throughout the seven counties of her chapter and in Maryland.

### **Yankauer Preserve**

This property, owned by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society, is gently rolling former farmland gradually returning to its natural forested state. Home to 105 different native plant species, and especially interesting because this land is in transition; in effect, an informative natural laboratory where participants can expect to view a constantly changing blend of fast-growing shrubs and trees, red cedar glades, and emerging oak

forest. The preserve also includes a section of wooded, high limestone bluffs overlooking the Potomac River, which adds even more variety to the landscape and habitat mix. About 20 minutes from the NCTC.

**With Joe Metzger:** A legend in his own time, Joe has been leading field trips for 40 years.

***The Usual Caveats for Field Trips:*** dress for the weather and the terrain: long pants, hiking boots, sunscreen and/or hats and long sleeves. Take precautions against ticks and chiggers. Bring water; don't bring dogs or other pets. Consider bringing walking sticks, loupes, binoculars, field guides, and notebooks. Enjoy!