



**2026 - Master Naturalist DRAFT Program Schedule**  
**Classes held - 9:00-noon\***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Instructor / Logistics</b>
<b>January 31</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Orientation</b>	Instructor: Dr. Lise Jenkins, Program Chairperson Location: Chatham Extension Center (1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro) How this works - logistics What does a Naturalist do & the scientific method Your Impact Project - Meet our Partner Organizations
<b>HABITAT MODULE</b>		
<b>February 28</b>	<b>Forests</b>	Instructor: Dr. Johnny Randall, Conservation, NC Botanical Garden Location: NC Botanical Garden (100 Old Mason Farm Rd, Chapel Hill) Characteristics of piedmont forests Impact of light, soils, disturbance, land use, and climate Services provided by forests
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Rivers</b>	Instructor: Brena Jones, Aquatic Wildlife NC Wildlife Resource Commission Location: Durham Extension Center (721 Foster St, Durham) Components of a river Types of creeks, streams, and rivers comprising piedmont watersheds Mussels: something small to understand something big River services, disturbance, and impact
<b>March 21</b>	<b>Geology &amp; Hiking Skills</b>	Instructor: Tonya Brami, Geologist Location: Orange County Extension Center (1020 US Hwy 70, Hillsborough) North Carolina geology and what's special about the Piedmont Trail first aid and hiking techniques
<b>March 28</b>	<b>Climate</b>	Instructor: Dr. Walter Robinson, Climate & Society, NC State University Location: Orange County Extension Center (1020 US Hwy 70, Hillsborough) NC Piedmont climate Impact of climate change
<b>April-May*</b>	<b>Geology Hikes</b>	Field trips - Due to size limits you will sign up for one hike. 1:00-4:00pm, meet at trail head, multiple locations. See website for schedule
<b>FOOD WEB MODULE</b>		
<b>April 11</b>	<b>Botany</b>	Instructor: Matt Jones, Agent, Chatham County Extension Location: Stan M. Adams Training Facility (2832 Big Woods Rd, Chapel Hill) Converting the sun's energy, foundations of the food web Plant taxonomy Anatomy and physiology How to identify plants
<b>May 16</b>	<b>Insects</b>	Instructor: Dr. Ashley Troth, Agent, Durham County Extension and Debbie Roos, Agent, Chatham County Extension Location: Chatham Extension Center (1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro) Next step in the food web Insects anatomy & life cycles Identification & classification A brief history of time and how insects became specialists vs generalists

<b>June 6</b>	<b>Birds</b>	Instructor: Dr. Karen Stine, Professor Emerita, Auburn University Location: Orange County Extension Center (1020 US Hwy 70, Hillsborough) Connecting the food web - birds and beyond Interaction between populations & habitat fragmentation What birds tell us about habitat What habitat tells us about birds - bird identification
<b>IMPACT MODULE</b>		
<b>Sept 19</b>	<b>Urban Ecology</b>	Instructors: Elsa Youngsteadt, NCSU, Applied Ecology Location: Durham Extension Center (721 Foster St, Durham) Urban tree canopy Storm water impact Heat islands Density vs sprawl
<b>October 3</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>	Instructor: Kaitlyn Elliott, Water Quality Prg Mgr. Haw River Assembly Location: Johnston Mill Nature Preserve, 2713 Mt Sinai Rd, Chapel Hill Piedmont watershed concerns Monitoring and reporting
<b>October 24</b>	<b>Conservation</b>	Instructor: Bo Howes, Land Protection, Triangle Land Conservancy Location: Durham Extension Center (721 Foster St, Durham) Navigating the complexities Case study
<b>Nov 14</b>	<b>Wrap-up Celebration</b>	Location: Chatham Extension Center (1192 US 64W Business, Pittsboro) Present Impact Projects Celebrate accomplishments

\*Geology hikes generally held 1-4:00pm

### 2026 Continuing Education Schedule

Date	Topic	Instructor / Logistics
<b>April 1</b>	<b>Trilium Walk</b>	Instructor: Angela Hawkins, Steven Nature Center Location: Hemlock Bluff Nature Preserve, 2616 Kildare Farm Rd, Cary
<b>April 7</b>	<b>Natural Darkness - Fireflies</b>	Instructor: Richard Joyce, Conservation Biologist, Xerces Society Location: Zoom at 12:30-1:30pm Fireflies of NC & How to participate in the Firefly Atlas
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Bumble Bee Atlas</b>	Instructor: Avery Young, Conservation Biologist, Xerces Society Location: Zoom at 12:30-1:30 Bumble Bee conservation and the impact of citizen science
<b>August TBD</b>	<b>Role of Fire - Prescribed Burning</b>	Instructor: Mart Bumgarner, Horticulture Agent, Orange County Extension Location: Zoom Impact of fire on habitat Triangle Prescribed Burn Association