

Recommended Books and Equipment

Books. The most useful titles are followed by an asterisk (*). Some of these are out of print, and others may be expensive. Try libraries or search for used copies at www.bookfinder.com or http://master_naturalist_resources.cherokeehawk.com. Some titles can be borrowed from the WVMN Library – Check with the State Coordinator.

Peterson Field Guide Series

- Birds
- Mammals
- Animal Tracks*
- Reptiles and Amphibians
- Wildflowers – Northeastern and North Central
- Edible Wild Plants
- Medicinal Plants
- Ferns
- Trees and Shrubs
- Insects*
- Beetles*
- Moths*
- Butterflies
- Atmosphere
- Rocks and Minerals

Golden Nature Guide Series

- Butterflies and Moths*
- Spiders and their Kin*
- Non-flowering Plants
- Fossils
- Pond Life*
- Weeds
- Insect Pests
- Rocks and Minerals
- Venomous Animals

Golden Field Guides

- Birds*
- Trees*

Audubon Society Field Guide Series

- Mushrooms*
- Night Sky
- Weather

Nature Study Guide “Finder” Guides

- Master Tree Finder*
- Winter Tree Finder
- Flower Finder
- Fern Finder

How to Know Series (Pictured Key Nature Series)

How to Know the Mosses and Liverworts
How to Know the Lichens
How to Know the Spiders*
How to Know the Freshwater Algae
How to Know the Eastern Land Snails

Miscellaneous Natural History Guides

Flora of West Virginia*
Newcomb's Wildflower Guide
Wildflowers in Color
The Appalachians
Mushrooms of West Virginia and the Central Appalachians*
Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America (Fischer & Bessette)
Butterflies of West Virginia and their Caterpillars*
Geologic History of West Virginia
Fishes of West Virginia
Macrolichens of West Virginia*
Amphibians and Reptiles of West Virginia*
Field Book of Natural History (Palmer)
Secrets of Wildflowers
Field Book of Freshwater Life (Klots)
Medicinal Plants, Trees, & Shrubs of Appalachia – A Field Guide

Booklets and Checklists Available free from WVDNR, Wildlife Diversity Program

Booklets:

Butterfly Gardening in West Virginia
Turtles and Lizards of West Virginia
Toads and Frogs of West Virginia
Snakes of West Virginia
Tiger Beetles of West Virginia

Brochures:

Bats of West Virginia
Threatened and Endangered Wildlife in West Virginia
Invasive Plants in West Virginia

Checklists:

Amphibians and Reptiles of West Virginia: A Field Checklist
Mammals of West Virginia: A Field Checklist
Butterflies of West Virginia: A Field Checklist
Birds of West Virginia: A Field Checklist
Fishes of West Virginia: A Field Checklist
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species: Plants, Vertebrates, Invertebrates

Equipment:

Hand Lens. Every Master Naturalist should carry a 10x hand lens (also called a lope or pocket magnifier). GemoOro makes a good quality folding magnifier at a very good price (about \$11). One source is FDJ On Time at (800) 323-6091 or <http://www.fdjtool.com>. You can also get most of these items from Edmund Scientific at: www.scientificsonline.com or 1-800-728-6999.

Binoculars are likewise indispensable. Choose 7x to 10x, preferably with close-up focus and wide field of view (see the WVMN Manual). Check out The Sportsmans Guide at: www.sportsmansguide.com, 1-800-888-3006.

Notebook. A sturdy pocket notebook and pencil should always be at hand.

Ruler. A plastic six-inch ruler calibrated in inches and centimeters will be useful in using keys and the descriptions in field guides, as well as making your own field notes.

Knife. A study pocket knife with two blades – one kept sharp – will find innumerable uses, from examining the pith in twigs to testing the hardness of minerals. A very useful second knife is the smallest Swiss Army model with tweezers and scissors.

Other useful equipment includes camera, insect net (Edmund Scientific), small jars and boxes, forceps (tweezers), sturdy digging tool (such as a sheath knife, mason's hammer, or large screwdriver), and bag to carry it all.

Specialized equipment and materials used in certain classes will usually be provided by the instructor. Some items may be borrowed from the WVMN State Coordinator.