

Blue Ridge Naturalist Certificate of Merit WORKING Schedule - 2024

Dates are Subject to Change According to Weather, Space Availability and Instructor Scheduling

COURSE - FORMAT	INSTRUCTOR(S)	TERM OFFERED - TENTATIVE DATES	PROGRAM CREDIT - HOURS
<p>Core Courses: All courses identified as Core are required for the BRN Certificate of Merit program. They are spaced through the year according to the instructor's recommendation and availability. Whenever possible they are offered in an In-Person and an Asynchronous or Blended version. A Blended version of the course will combine online lectures (either synchronous or asynchronous) with in-person applied learning opportunities. No courses taken outside those offered by the Arboretum can be counted as core credit for the certificate of merit.</p>			
Climate Change Science Spring Term 2024 - Asynchronous Fall Term 2024 - Synchronous	NOAA/NCEI/NCIC S Scientists	Spring 2024: Asynchronous Open January 26 through March 15 ☐ Climate Change Science 2023 Fall 2024: Updated 2024 version to be offered in October 2024	Core Requirement
Vertebrate Zoology of the Blue Ridge, Part I	Carlton Burke	Asynchronous Series Open February 15 through May 31	Core Requirement
Winter Native Tree Identification - Online	Carlton Burke	ONLINE Wednesday, February 21, 1 - 3 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Late Winter Ethnobotany & Tree ID - Intensive	Marc Williams	ONSITE Sunday, February 25, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Vertebrate Zoology of the Blue Ridge, Part II	Carlton Burke	Asynchronous Series Open March 1 through May 31	Core Requirement
Botany Basics - Asynchronous	Alexandra Holland	Asynchronous Series Open March 19 through June 30	Core Requirement**
Botany Basics - In Person	Alexandra Holland	ONSITE Six Sessions: Tuesdays & Thursdays, March 19 - April 4, 1 - 3 p.m.	Core Requirement**

Spring Native Flora Identification - Field	Scott Dean	FIELD Five Sessions: Wednesdays, April 3 - May 8 (No Class April 10), 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. + (Hikes may go longer.)	Core Requirement***
Spring Native Flora Identification - Blended	Scott Dean	BLENDED Five Sessions: FIELD - Saturday, April 6 & May 11, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; ONLINE - Tuesdays, April 16, 23 & 30, 10 - 11 a.m.	Core Requirement***
Spring Native Tree Identification - Online	Carlton Burke	ONLINE Wednesday, April 10, 1 - 3 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Spring Native Tree ID In-Person Intensive	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Thursday, April 18, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Late Spring Ethnobotany and Tree ID - Intensive	Marc Williams	ONSITE Friday, May 31, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Fluvial Systems from the Blue Ridge to the Ocean	Anton DuMars	ONLINE Four Sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 28 - June 6, 10 - 11 a.m.	Core Requirement
Summer Native Flora Identification - Field	Scott Dean	FIELD Five Sessions: Wednesdays, June 19 - July 24 (Note: No Class July 3), 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.+ (Hikes may go longer.)	Core Requirement***
Summer Native Flora Identification - Blended	Scott Dean	BLENDED Five Sessions: FIELD - Saturday, June 22 & July 27, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; ONLINE - Tuesdays, June 25, July 9 & 16, 10 - 11 a.m.	Core Requirement***
Summer Native Tree ID	Carlton Burke	ONLINE Wednesday, June 19, 1 - 3 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Summer Native Tree Identification - In-Person Intensive	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Friday, June 21, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Late Summer Ethnobotany and Tree ID	Marc Williams	ONSITE Saturday, August 24, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*

Geology of the Blue Ridge - Asynchronous	Steve Yurkovich	August Dates TBD	Core Requirement**
Geology of the Blue Ridge - In Person	Steve Yurkovich	August Dates TBD	Core Requirement**
Ecology of the Blue Ridge - Asynchronous	Dan Lazar	BLENDED Asynchronous Series Open September 19 Through November 30 + Two ONLINE Discussion Sessions: Wednesdays, October 2 & 23, 6 - 7 p.m.	Core Requirement**
Ecology of the Blue Ridge - In Person	Dan Lazar	ONSITE Four Sessions: Thursdays, September 19 - October 10, 1 - 4 p.m.	Core Requirement**
Natural History Interpretation - Blended	Brad Daniel	October Dates TBD	Core Requirement
Fall Native Flora Identification - Field	Scott Dean	FIELD Five Sessions: Wednesdays, August 28 - September 25, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. + (Hikes may go longer.)	Core Requirement***
Fall Native Flora Identification - Blended	Scott Dean	BLENDED Five Sessions: FIELD - Saturdays, August 31 & September 28, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; ONLINE - Tuesdays, September 3, 10 & 17, 10 - 11 a.m.	Core Requirement***
Fall Color & Native Tree ID - Online	Carlton Burke	ONLINE Wednesday, October 16, 1 - 3 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Fall Color & Native Tree Identification - In-Person Intensive	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Thursday, October 17, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*
Late Fall Ethnobotany and Tree ID	Marc Williams	ONSITE Saturday, November 16, 1 - 5 p.m.	Core Requirement*
<p>LEGEND: *The online version of this course counts as a core requirement for the BRN Certificate of Merit when taken with a two-hour field experience (example: Winter Tree Identification Online + Winter Tree ID Field Experience A or B). OR a four-hour In-Person Intensive version of this class combines classroom lecture and field experience to count as the seasonal Native Tree ID core requirement for the BRN Certificate of Merit (examples: Late Winter Ethnobotany & Tree ID - Intensive with Marc Williams or Spring Native Tree Identification - Intensive with Carlton Burke).</p>			

***Either the In-Person Intensive version or the Blended Asynchronous version of this course fulfills the core requirement for the BRN Certificate of Merit (example: Botany Basics - In Person or Botany Basics - Asynchronous).*

****Either the Blended version or the Field version of the Native Flora Identification course fulfills the core requirement for the BRN Certificate of Merit (example: Spring Native Flora Identification - Field or Spring Native Flora Identification - Blended).*

Field Experiences: BRN Students should consider taking as many field experiences as possible for their Blue Ridge Naturalist study. A minimum of four (4) field studies fulfill program requirements at the present time. Program field experiences include In-Season Tree ID Field Experiences (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall) and others to be determined in each season.

Winter Native Tree ID - Field Experience A	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Thursday, February 22, 1 - 3 p.m.	Field Experience
Winter Native Tree ID - Field Experience B	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Spring Native Tree ID - Field Experience A	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Spring Native Tree ID - Field Experience B	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Fluvial Systems from the Blue Ridge to the Ocean Field Experience	Anton DuMars	FIELD Friday, June 7, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Summer Native Tree ID - Field Experience A	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Saturday, June 22, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Summer Native Tree ID - Field Experience B	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Saturday, June 29, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Geology of the Blue Ridge Field Experience	Steve Yurkovich	August/September TBD	Field Experience
Fall Color & Native Tree ID - Field Experience A	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Friday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience

Fall Color & Native Tree ID - Field Experience B	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Friday, October 18, 1 - 3 p.m.	Field Experience
Fall Color & Native Tree ID - Field Experience C	Carlton Burke	ONSITE Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Field Experience
Ecology of the Blue Ridge Field Experience A	Dan Lazar	FIELD Friday, October 18, 1 - 5 p.m.	Field Experience
Ecology of the Blue Ridge Field Experience B	Dan Lazar	FIELD Saturday, October 19, 1 - 5 p.m.	Field Experience
<p>Elective Studies - 30 Hours: Elective Studies are designed around encouraging specialized knowledge in the following areas: Astronomy & Meteorology; Wildlife; Plant Studies; Appalachian Arts & Culture; Growing in Place & Special Topics. Students are required to take at least 30 hours in elective studies in any subject area as desired. Elective courses and credit hours are indicated in course descriptions. No courses taken outside the Arboretum can be counted toward elective credit except as otherwise announced with the following exception: Students may attend a pre-approved conference or symposium to earn up to six hours elective credit.</p>			
<p>Service & Volunteerism: Students are also required to complete 6 hours of Service & Volunteerism with a local conservation organization, community garden or similar entity. Some projects can also be coordinated through the Arboretum with our Youth Education and Horticulture Programs, for example Youth Education's ecoEXPLORE program (additional training and onboarding required).</p>			
<p>Reflection Assignments: Students should always complete reflection assignments at the close of all core classes. We recommend keeping the reflections in a separate folder or field journal for your own record of accomplishment to track your course of study. A new system of submitting reflections is being developed and will be announced Spring 2024. The reflection assignment serves as both a way of tracking program requirements and encourages deeper understanding and application.</p>			
<p>Updated Version: 14 February 2024</p>			