

## WV Native Plant Society Annual Meeting and Field Trips

### ***Marl Marsh and Reclaimed Wetland – Historic Claymont Mansion***

August 25-27, 2023

Charles Town, WV

Friday, August 25 – 4:00 to 6:00 PM – Meet at the **Claymont Mansion** and join us for walk through the **Claymont Society Grounds**. Sturdy boots are recommended.

Saturday, August 26 – 8:30 to 10:30 AM – Join the WV Native Plant Society at the **Claymont Mansion on the veranda** for the annual meeting and election of officers.

Saturday, August 26 – 11:00 AM to ? – Meet at the **Claymont Mansion** and caravan to the **Cool Spring Preserve**. The Preserve is managed by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society. We will explore a unique “marl marsh” wetland area. Marl marshes support a variety of unusual wetland plants, and only about 100 acres of marl marsh exist. “Marl” is soil consisting primarily of calcium carbonate and clay. We expect to see numerous species of wetland plants rarely or not found in the rest of the state, including Flat-Top Joe-Pye Weed, Torrey’s Rush, Water Horsetail, Green-Flowered Milkweed, and Virginia Mountain Mint. Bring waterproof boots, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and any food you require. Be prepared to get wet!

Sunday, August 27 – 8:30 AM to ? – Meet at the **Claymont Mansion** and caravan to **Stauffer’s Marsh Nature Preserve**, located on SR 7 south of Shanghai, WV in Berkeley County. The 46 acre reclaimed wetland is managed by the Potomac Valley Audubon Society and is host to many wetland plants and waterfowl. Bring sturdy boots, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and any food you require.

Directions to the Claymont Mansion and Grounds –

Address: 577 Claymont Mansion Drive, Charles Town WV 25414

Website: [www.claymont.org](http://www.claymont.org)

Directions to the Cool Spring Preserve –

Address: 1469 Lloyd Road, Charles Town WV 25414

Website: <https://www.potomacaudubon.org/preserves/cool-spring/>

Directions to Stauffer’s Marsh Nature Preserve –

Address: 4069 Back Creek Valley Road, Hedgesville, WV 25427

Website: <https://www.potomacaudubon.org/preserves/stauffers-marsh/>

## **Lodging Recommendation: The Claymont Mansion, Charles Town WV**

**The Mansion at Claymont** is a Georgian style brick mansion, the grandest of several built near Charles Town, West Virginia for members of the Washington family. The current house was built in 1840 by Bushrod Corbin Washington, grand-nephew of George Washington, to replace a house that was originally built in 1820, but burned in 1838.

The Mansion is the only Washington property where guests can stay overnight. Guests sleep on the upper floors of the Mansion in individual, double, or triple rooms.

- A group of rooms has been put aside for the WVNPS at \$55 per night
- No reservation is needed, but feel free to call 304-725-4437 to check
- Rooms may be single, double or triple, depending on availability, with shared baths
- Payment by cash or check – credit cards are not accepted
- Bring your own linens and towels
- No food service is available on site - restaurants are close by in Charles Town
- Primitive camping is available on site for \$20 per night

Address: 577 Claymont Mansion Drive, Charles Town WV 25414

Website: [www.claymont.org](http://www.claymont.org)

Numerous other hotels/motels are located in nearby Charles Town and Shepherdstown area.