



AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Annual Report:
A Year In Review
2018-2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an extraordinary year ANS has had! Years of serious planning and hard work are now coming to fruition in an exciting new era for Woodend and for ANS activities throughout the Greater Washington Region.

The **Nature for All** campaign has inspired momentum that will continue to drive us toward achieving the goals of our Strategic Plan through 2022. "Nature for All" literally means what it says: opening access to nature for everyone through tangible conservation, restoration, and education programs, backed by ANS's remarkable support capacity and our first major capital campaign, which just reached its \$4 million goal!

In **Conservation**, we grew our team with three new, full-time Conservation Advocates in Maryland, DC and Virginia, who are ramping up our work to combat the Climate Crisis.

In **Restoration**, we blew past our goals for tree and shrub planting, installing a notable 348 native trees and shrubs and earning local and national media attention for our work.

In **Youth Education**, we take pride in noting that ANS received a Sustainable Green Center Award from the Maryland Association of Outdoor and Environmental Education, the highest certification possible. We welcomed five new schools into GreenKids, a program that provides free hands-on environmental science experiences. Loudoun County Public Schools funded a new program to bring ANS Schoolyard Nature Experiences to 20 preschool classes. And with a generous grant from the Montgomery County Council, we offered free Unplug and Play After School Nature Clubs at four Title I schools.

Our **Adult Education** programs hit their marks this year for enrollment, as advocacy and water quality monitoring adult programs ran at or near capacity.

Operations made great strides with physical plant improvements including a shimmering new copper roof, accessible walkways, and native landscaping.

The Naturalist Shop attracted 150+ new members, welcomed hundreds of first-time visitors to Woodend, and hosted book talks that attracted capacity crowds.

Communications had a banner year with a record number of media placements, national magazine coverage, and growth in social media followers. We also debuted the widely acclaimed 50th anniversary documentary, *The Land of Woodend*.

Development and Membership rocked fundraising, not only achieving the ambitious goals of our capital campaign, but also producing record-breaking Bird-a-thon and Audubon After Dark revenue in the process.

Our **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility** (IDEA) efforts progressed beautifully with a sold-out Naturally Latinos conference, an all-staff training on unconscious bias, and our IDEA Task Force that created public definitions and measurable goals for ANS.

ANS **volunteers** together donated volunteer hours equal to five full-time staff.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, please accept my deepest appreciation to you—our members, volunteers, supporters, staff and friends, in past years and up to the minute—for your contributions to this remarkable success.

We would love your help to continue making the vision of Nature for All a reality. Please renew your membership and make a generous gift to ANS today.

Scott Fosler
ANS Board President



ANS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Jacky Wershbaile, Director of
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*This false sunflower captures the sun and the beauty of the restored meadow on a perfect summer day.
Photo by Ben Israel.*

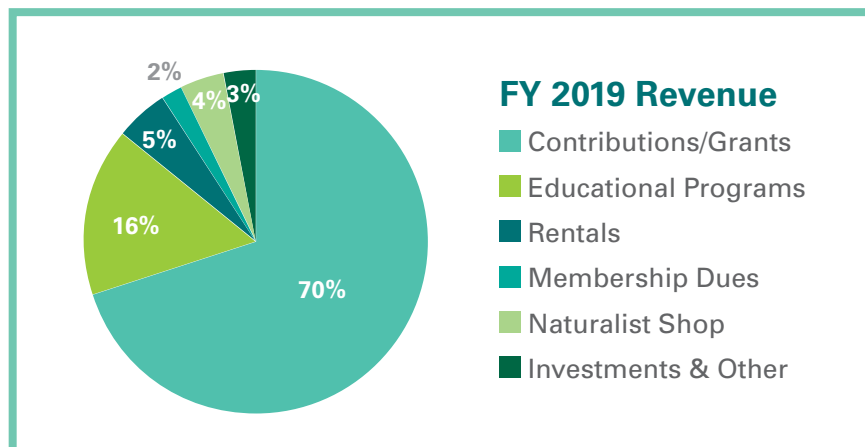
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Statement of Activities For the Year Ended August 31, 2019



REVENUE

Contributions/Grants	6,623,697
Educational Programs	1,610,832
Rentals	515,261
Membership Dues	185,214
Naturalist Shop	167,990
Investment Income (net of fees)	113,557
Other	48,622
Total Revenue	9,265,173
Unrealized Gain on Investments	(34,759)
Total Revenue & Unrealized Gains	\$ 9,230,414



EXPENSES

Conservation, Education, and Restoration

Education Programs	1,863,848
Sanctuaries & Restoration	1,071,100
Conservation	478,062
Membership & Volunteer Services	236,598
Communications	379,553
Naturalist Shop	107,025
Total Program Expense	\$ 4,136,186

Support Services

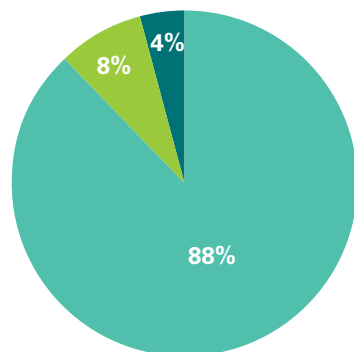
Fundraising	393,030
General and Administration	176,095
Total Support Services Expense	569,125
Total Expense	4,705,311
Change in Net Assets	4,525,103
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	7,952,952
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 12,478,055

Statement of Financial Position As of August 31, 2019

Assets

Current Assets:

Cash	2,231,008
Receivables	2,052,795
Inventory	310,697
Prepaid Expenses	29,333
Total Current Assets	4,623,833
Property and Equipment (Net)	2,795,470
Investments at Market Value	6,092,055
Total Assets	\$ 13,511,358



FY 2019 Expenses

- Conservation, Education, and Restoration
- Fundraising
- General and Administration

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	75,650
Accrued Expenses	186,367
Equipment Leases	76,330
Deferred Revenue	588,132
Loan for Classroom Renovation	106,824
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,033,303

Net Assets

Without Donor Restriction	4,044,571
With Donor Restriction: Temporarily Restricted	7,313,760
With Donor Restriction: Permanently Restricted	1,119,724
Total Net Assets	12,478,055
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 13,511,358

These preliminary statements for FY2019 are prepared according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Final, audited statements for FY2019 will be available on our website and by written request after Board acceptance of the audit in January 2020.

CONSERVATION POLICY & ADVOCACY

ANS leads local and regional campaigns to address environmental threats and trains activists throughout Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. This year we grew our team by hiring full-time Conservation Advocates in Maryland, DC and Virginia. Our new advocates ramped up our work to combat the Climate Crisis.

Washington, DC



ANS joined the DC Climate Coalition to implement the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018. As one of the most ambitious climate policies in the country, the act calls for 100% clean energy by 2032, and requires DC to make sweeping changes to its building, transportation and electricity systems.

We helped lead an initiative to ensure equity in DC's new Green Bank that will fund building retrofits and renewable energy projects for the city's residents and building owners.

ANS testified before the DC Council in support of closing a loophole in DC's 2016 foam ban.

Maryland



We speak for the trees! After devoting three years to lobbying and bringing hardy ANS volunteers to Annapolis to speak up, ANS and the Maryland Forest Coalition succeeded getting two bills passed to better protect forests. Thank you for all your support!

ANS catalyzed the fight against a bad solar project proposed by Georgetown University that would have clear cut 240 acres of forest in the Nanjemoy Forest in Charles County. Our members and supporters submitted 143 letters asking the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to protect

the forest and find a better site for solar. MDE ultimately denied permission for the solar project. We saved a forest!

We battled against a harmful highway expansion that would fly in the face of climate mitigation. Governor Hogan is trying to ram through a plan to widen I-495 and I-270 even before an environmental impact statement is complete. This is the fast lane in the wrong direction: towards more sprawl, more cars, more damaging stormwater impacts and less parkland. The fight continues.





Tamara Toles O'Laughlin speaks at Conservation Café. *Photo by Ben Israel.*



Conservation Café speaker Dr. Patricia Hernandez. *Photo by Ben Israel.*



ANS supporter Abel Olivo speaking out against highway expansion at Beltway rally. *Photo by Denisse Guitarra.*

Virginia



Victory for Dogue Creek!
ANS and partners in Northern Virginia galvanized neighbors and concerned citizens to object to a development proposed for a 100% floodplain near Alexandria. It would have set a terrible precedent for overturning environmental protections. Our protests garnered media attention and the developer withdrew the project.

ANS and nine partner organizations released a platform for Fairfax Healthy Communities in time for the Board of Supervisors Democratic Primary Debate. The platform pushes candidates to commit Fairfax County to a sustainable, inclusive, and livable vision for the future.

DC Metro Region

We published a new **SPEAK OUT!** Advocacy & Stewardship Handbook for use in our advocacy workshops and trainings that reached 840 participants this year.

On their very first day on the job, ANS's three new Advocates participated in the annual Choose Clean Water Coalition Lobby Day in March. We thanked our Congressional delegation for supporting Chesapeake Bay funding and asked them to keep up the fight to protect the environment!

ANS hosted nine Conservation Cafés with diverse speakers from the region talking about their work and how ANS members and supporters can take action to help protect human and environmental health.

Visit conservationblog.anshome.org for more policy and advocacy news and to sign up for ANS Action Alerts!



Stream Science

This year, 191 ANS Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers collected stream health data at 30 stream sites, including two new sites, for a total of 498 monitoring visits.

ANS joined a NEW community science water monitoring program, testing sites across DC for the presence of *E. coli*, a bacterium that indicates fecal contamination. Together with partners, ANS worked to equip, deploy, and manage 48 volunteers at 8 bacteria monitoring sites in the Rock Creek watershed.

Water Quality Monitoring Program Coordinator Cathy Wiss was honored at the Maryland Water Monitoring Conference with the well-deserved Carl Weber Award for “lifetime commitment to water monitoring and the communities it serves.”

We held our first-ever Community Science Summit in February. Over 70 volunteers, water monitors, Master Naturalists, and other volunteer scientists shared their data gathering techniques and results. We call it community science because you don’t have to be a citizen to collect scientific data!



Students of Water Quality Monitoring try their hands at caddisfly identification.
Photo by Bradley Simpson.



Cathy Wiss shows off the frog totem she was presented with along with the Carl Weber Award for lifetime commitment to water monitoring.



ANS Community Science Summit. *Photo by Eliza Cava.*



Join a water monitoring class today to try your hand at identifying the aquatic insects that tell us about stream health.
Photo by Yishen Li.

Creek Critters

In September, ANS's very own Creek Critters stream science smartphone app was honored with an "Innovation Award" by Bethesda Magazine. Since we launched the app in 2015, Creek Critters has engaged nearly 18,000 people in learning about stream health!

Creek Critters is more than an app! It's a new way to connect communities to nature. We're using Creek Critters in an outreach program in Long Branch, an immigrant neighborhood in Silver Spring. Our project, What Lives in Long Branch? / ¿Que Vive en Long Branch?, works with community organizations to introduce hundreds of neighbors to their stream and the little "bichos acuáticos" (aquatic bugs) that live there. ANS's bilingual educators teach kids and their parents about the animals and plants of the watershed and have inspired Long Branch families to take action to protect their stream!



A Long Branch resident looks at aquatic insects through a microscope. *Photo by David Blockstein.*



A mom and her children from the Long Branch community visit a stream on the Northwest Branch. *Photo by David Blockstein.*

Testimonials

“As a representative of a partner organization, it has been a pleasure to work with such a passionate and knowledgeable team at ANS. As a community member, I am grateful that I am now aware of the real condition of the environment in our community and, even more important, I am positive that we can advocate and work for a healthier and thriving community.”

— **Vanessa Pinto,**
Community Programs Director at Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research (CHEER)



RESTORATION



Blair Garden volunteers celebrate taking down the temporary deer fence that allowed native plants to thrive. *Photo by Caroline Brewer.*

The Grounds

We learned a lot about deer this year, including that some can jump more than 14 feet! We extended the cattle grates to 21 feet long at Woodend. We are eager to see how many native strawberry bush fruits appear in the Woodend forest. And we were finally able to release the Blair Native Plant Garden from deer fencing. It feels so open and welcoming now that it is fence-free.

We continued a steady march to replace invasive plants with the

native species that support local wildlife. In the northwest woods, we replaced invasive honeysuckle and wisteria with a variety of native understory species including mayapple, Solomon's plume, and Jack-in-the-pulpit. Around the Teale Learning Center, a dense infestation of invasive bush honeysuckle was replaced with native shrubs including silky dogwood and arrowwood viburnum. And we took the first steps of a three-year plan to expand the native plant gardens around the mansion. At our



Native prickly pear cactus blooms prolifically in the Blair Garden. *Photo by Ben Israel.*

north entrance, the new accessible walkway is flanked by native shrubs, ferns, and flowering plants that replaced Chinese holly and crepe myrtle. In total, we planted more than 500 new native shrubs and trees at Woodend.

At Woodend, we aim to restore habitat AND advance the science of restoration. This year, we completed a comprehensive vegetation survey of the Woodend forest that will allow us to track and measure restoration progress in the coming

years. This spring, we hosted the first-ever Meadow Summit at Woodend. Expert restoration practitioners shared best practices for restoring and maintaining native meadow habitat.

More restoration projects are on the way! We worked with engineers and landscape designers to finalize plans for a stream restoration, a wheelchair-accessible nature trail, and permeable parking areas, all to be constructed in the coming year.

NATURE FOR ALL CAMPAIGN

The Nature for All Campaign is the first capital campaign of its scope ever undertaken by ANS. When complete, the Nature for All projects will enable us to connect more people than ever to the natural world. The goal of the campaign is \$4 million for four specific promises:

- Restore and Interpret Forest, Meadow, Stream and Pond Habitats
- Install a Wheelchair Accessible Nature Trail
- Build a Nature Play Space for Young Children, their Teachers and Families
- Invest in the Mansion Upgrades for our Classroom and Rental Space

As of August 31, 2019, we raised \$3.85 million towards this goal. We are grateful to everyone who has supported the campaign thus far. We thank the following for their six-figure lead gifts:

- In 2017, Maryland Delegates Al Carr, Ana Sol Gutierrez, Jeff Waldstreicher and Senator Richard Madaleno sponsored a \$150,000 Bond Bill to design the accessible trail at Woodend.
- In 2019, Maryland Delegates Al Carr, Emily Shetty, Jared Solomon and Senator Jeff Waldstreicher sponsored a \$250,000 Bond Bill to help fund the installation of the accessible trail.
- Maryland's Department of Natural Resources gave \$598,534 to restore Clean Drinking Stream at Woodend.
- Maryland's Department of Transportation gave a grant of \$223,106 in support of the accessible trail at Woodend.
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust has given a total of \$250,450 in multiple grants to support of stormwater management projects at Woodend.
- Sharon and Robert Buchanan who generously contributed \$250,00 as a challenge match to jumpstart the campaign.



National Park Service's accessible trail illustrates opportunities to explore nature that more visitors to Woodend sanctuary can soon expect. *Photo by NPS Jacob W. Frank.*



A tiger swallowtail soars above Joe-Pye weed blooms in the Blair Garden. *Photo by Ben Israel.*



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education

ANS continued its strong commitment to young children in the 2018-2019 school year, serving 94 families in the Audubon Nature Preschool (ANP) where youngsters fall in love with nature through hands-on exploration and discovery at Woodend Sanctuary. ANP continues to serve as a model to educators worldwide, this year by hosting a group of 18 Chinese delegates to share best practices in nature-based education. At both our Rust and Woodend Sanctuaries, ANS served more than 40 families through our Fresh Air Kids and Tales & Trails programs for children and their caregivers. We were thrilled this year when Loudoun County Public Schools funded a new program to bring ANS Schoolyard Nature Experiences to 20 preschool classes throughout the seasons.



Head Start pre-kindergarten students from Loudoun County get a close look at soil and soil critters with ANS.

Testimonials

“Audubon Nature Preschool is everything we were looking for in a preschool and kindergarten. Our children are confident, strong, skilled and respectful to all living things and we know this is a result of their time at ANP.”

—Nature preschool parent

“The school fosters in kids their imagination, critical thinking, gross and fine motor skills, and caring for nature and others human beings. Your kids will be teaching you about nature!”

—Nature preschool parent





Students from 44 schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia enjoyed nurturing their own salad greens from seeds and celebrating with salad parties this year.



ANS trained students at GreenKids alumni school, Sligo Middle School, to lead a Composting Awareness Day in their cafeteria and compost the food waste collected.



Our GreenKids Rust Watershed Adventures is a grant-based program that brought more than 1,000 students to investigate water quality at Rust Nature Sanctuary.

Youth Education

GREENKIDS

We celebrated our 14th year of partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and 10th year with Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) by welcoming five new schools into GreenKids this year. We cheered for the six GreenKids schools that received state green school certifications and recertifications

this year. GreenKids continues to deliver hands-on environmental science **FREE-OF-CHARGE** to schools and posted these notable numbers this year:

- 2,738 students studied aquatic insects and water chemistry in their local streams;
- 622 students made their own recycled paper;
- 853 students investigated composting with worms;

- 356 students made environmentally safe desk cleaners;
- 1,680 students investigated skulls and bird beak adaptations;
- 1,104 students experimented with watershed concepts such as erosion and litter; and
- 4,653 students at 44 schools grew and ate salad greens they grew in school gardens through our GreenKids Salad Science program.

ANS was named a Sustainable Maryland Green Center by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education. This notable accomplishment represents the highest level of Maryland Green Center certification and recognizes our deep commitment to supporting schools gain environmental literacy and become Maryland Green Schools.



GARBOLOGY

ANS provided hands-on lessons, teacher trainings, assemblies, and field trips to 22 DC schools. Second graders at all these schools participated in lessons on recycling, composting, park cleanups, recycling center field trips, and even learned how to be “trashbusters” at their schools and at home. This work was made possible a two-year Environmental Literacy Advancement Grant from the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

TESTING THE WATERS

A grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust enabled us to expand our Testing the Waters mentoring program for high school students and launch an Environmental Education Fellows program at ANS. Students from Einstein, Northwood, and Kennedy High Schools learned about water quality monitoring and put their leadership skills to the test by leading stream studies for local elementary students, planting rain gardens, and presenting their stream monitoring results at our Community Science Summit.



The science of garbage can be as gross as it is fun! At our Garbology assemblies and food waste audits, students learn how to be “trashbusters” at their schools, reducing waste and helping the planet.



High school students and ANS Environmental Education Fellows served as mentors to more than 400 elementary school students this year by leading stream studies and BioBlitz fieldtrips.





POWER students lead Energy Express library presentations to promote energy conservation in our community.

POWER (PEER OUTREACH WITH ENERGY RESOURCES)

ANS launched a new program this year in partnership with the Residential Energy Program Manager from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.

MCPS high school students met throughout the school-year to learn about energy conservation and how to communicate to county residents about resources available to help us conserve energy. The students then created and led Energy Express presentations at all the county libraries throughout the summer.



Arcola Elementary students were fascinated by a large crayfish found in Sligo Creek during our annual BioBlitz.

BIOBLITZ

In early June 2019, ANS pulled out the stops for our third annual BioBlitz, held in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery Parks, George Washington University, and Montgomery County Public Schools. We engaged every

fourth-grade student from Arcola Elementary in Silver Spring in exploring biodiversity of Sligo Creek Park. In the parkland adjacent to their school, student scientists worked alongside professionals to catalog species diversity of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife using the iNaturalist app.





Chemistry teachers learn to test nitrate levels in Rock Creek as part of a new unit on Chemistry of the Nitrogen Cycle. This high school science unit was developed through a collaboration of ANS, MCPS, and Rock Creek National Park.

CHEMISTRY MATTERS IN ROCK CREEK

ANS completed year two of a three-year, \$100,000 demonstration grant from the National Park Foundation. We worked with MCPS to create and implement a watershed module in the high school chemistry curriculum. When fully rolled out, the new unit will engage thousands of high school students in watershed modeling and hands-on monitoring of water chemistry of their in local streams. This year, ANS co-led three trainings



A millipede is a wonderful friend to find on a Walk in the Woods at Woodend Sanctuary.

for more than 50 teachers and supported field studies for more than 1,300 students.

WALK IN THE WOODS SCHOLARSHIPS

Field trips to Woodend Sanctuary on the Butterfly Bus are much more fun when you have already met your ANS naturalist and the bugs, worms, and snake they bring to your classroom! Pre-fieldtrip visits by our naturalists are a hallmark of Our Walk in the Woods Scholarship program. The outcome is fabulous fieldtrip



In our 6th year of partnership with Live It Learn It, ANS provided stream study experiences both in Rock Creek and at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens for 180 students from four schools from Southeast DC. Fourth grade students learned how to study benthic macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality.

experiences where confident children hop off the Butterfly Bus well prepared for their nature walk and ready to meet creepy crawly friends. The pre-fieldtrip visits help kids conquer fears and explore Woodend Sanctuary with a spirit of adventure. Thanks to generous donors, we provided free trips to 14 schools during the 2018-2019 school year. School Programs at Woodend reached more than 5,700 students, with 32 percent receiving scholarships. We are so grateful to our many donors who make these experiences possible for so many deserving school-children.

UNPLUG & PLAY NATURE CLUBS

With a generous \$18,000 grant from the Montgomery County Council we were able to offer Unplug and Play After School Nature Clubs at four Title I schools—Sargent Shriver, Daly, Summit Hall, and Rolling Terrace. After school can be a time of learning loss for children, but our nature clubs offer students the chance to explore outdoors with movement-centered play. As one nature club member exclaimed, “I didn’t know science could be fun!”



A summer camper gets serious about finding insects in the Big Meadow during the Fantastic Beasts camp. *Photo by Caroline Brewer.*

CAMP AUDUBON

It was another great year for Camp Audubon! We filled 1,190 camp spots with happy campers. We offered 79 camps and provided 35 scholarships—our highest number of scholarship awards in ANS history. Children and teens got to experience the wonders of nature by catching frogs in our pond, hiking the Appalachian Trail, eating tomatoes fresh from our garden, and so much more! One of the

highlights of the summer was being featured on NBC4 WJLA's evening news segment and getting the chance to spread the word about our amazing camp programs.

THE LEARNING GARDEN

The Children's Garden, renamed The Learning Garden this year, successfully incorporated new programming for visiting school groups. This year, 130 second



A summer camper gets an up close and personal look at a tiny katydid found in the Learning Garden. *Photo by Jenny Brown.*

graders from Sargent Shriver Elementary School had the opportunity to plant peas and lettuce, explore the compost area, look for signs of spring in the orchard and talk about how much of the earth's surface is covered with water. The garden is used throughout Camp Audubon as a place to find insects and other wildlife, taste produce, and get materials for craft projects. During

the school year, the garden is regularly visited by our Nature preschoolers, school's out day camps and visitors to Woodend. This past spring, the Learning Garden became a Montgomery County Master Gardener Demonstration garden. Master Gardeners meet weekly with the ANS Garden Programs Manager to plant, trim and weed to keep the garden looking its best.



ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Adult Nature Programs

Hundreds of nature-loving adults explored the natural habitats of close-in DMV as well as the farther reaches of mountains and waterways of the mid-Atlantic. Expert, enthusiastic leaders and teachers led hikes, bike trips and paddle excursions in and along the Potomac River; counted thrilling numbers of Bald Eagles at Blackwater National Wildlife Preserve; and applauded the dazzling display of bluebells at Boundary Bridge in Rock Creek Park.

We delivered more than 150 classes and field experiences and every bird, bug, bloom, and boulder was studied and enjoyed. The sensory pleasures of nature—an evening chorus of Spring Peepers, the scent of a Spicebush twig, the velvety buds of Pawpaw leaves—were stars of the show on fieldtrips and in ANS drawing workshops. New programs included Botany in a Parking Lot, Introduction to eBird and new series on Walking the Winter Woods and Forest Bathing through the Seasons.



Blooms, such as Wild Blue Phlox, are one of the highlights during our busy spring season of outings. *Photo by Stephanie Mason.*



Summer classes and field trips focus on the great diversity of insects in our region, including this Peck's Skipper butterfly. *Photo by J. Shinnick.*

Natural History Field Studies

Our Natural History Field Studies program, offered collaboratively with the Graduate School USA, turned a venerable 58 years old. This unique continuing education opportunity invites area adults—from nature newbies to experienced naturalists—to immerse themselves in our region's nature. Evening classes paired with field learning deliver optimal enrichment.

Devotees of our program can earn a Certificate of Accomplishment in Natural History by completing a rigorous set of courses. This year, our Certificate earners included a park naturalist, landscape designer, retired economist, retired computer programmer, Department of Defense employee and a health information specialist.



Our proud Natural History Field Studies certificate earners show off their new credentials.

Testimonials

“I barely got through high school biology, so this “natural history” thing is a pretty big stretch for me. I first took the NHFS Winter Tree ID from Elizabeth Rives, which I found to be extraordinary. After a few more courses, I couldn’t stop and went for the Certificate.”

—Retired economist

“After taking Don Messersmith’s excellent Insect Life class, I better understood how connected nature was. Before I knew it, I was hooked. Every time I go outside, I use knowledge gained from the NHFS program.”

—Retired computer programmer

“My life was changed. As I’ve told my husband, I no longer see a group of trees: I can now see between the trees. Once retired, we hope to use his long-time knowledge of nature and my new love of it for our own personal enjoyment, as well as possible stints as National Park Service volunteers.”

—Department of Defense employee

Nature Travel

ANS's nature travelers explore the natural world beyond the DC-metro region. Our groups are small (just 10-16 travelers) and they're led by seasoned naturalists, often paired up with the best local guides. When travelers return, they bring home photos of stunning scenery and wildlife, stories of memorable sightings, and lasting friendships. After an initial trip, many travelers return again and again for more!

This year ANS offered seven destinations, including new trips to Oregon's diverse landscapes and the varied habitats of New Mexico. We returned to the "down-under" continent of Australia for the first time in more than a decade, and to Yellowstone National Park for its glorious fall season. Two trips to Central America included our annual trip to the tropical wonderland of Costa Rica, as well as a trip to its equally wildlife-rich neighbor Panama. Heading farther south to the Equator, we visited Darwin's wild classroom on a cruise through the Galapagos Islands where travelers enjoyed sightings of Blue Whales, Flightless Cormorants, and colorful, underwater marine life viewed during daily snorkeling.



Sally Lightfoot crabs were among the showiest of the abundant marine wildlife enjoyed by our Galapagos travelers. *Photo by Stephanie Mason.*



The tropics' colorful tanagers always dazzle our Costa Rica travelers. *Photo by Stephanie Mason.*

Testimonials

“Goodness, what wasn't a highlight? Queensland tablelands for sure—and cassowaries and platypuses and saltwater crocs. Night spotlighting, rare birds—and being able to see as much of the country as we did.”

—Australia traveler

“The trip leaders were very caring and attentive to individual needs and desires.”

—Galapagos traveler

“The trip exceeded my expectations. Both leaders and fellow participants were congenial, considerate, patient, good-humored. Leaders clearly had passion for wildlife and nature and shared this with the group.”

—Traveler



IDEA — INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY



C.J. Gross, of Ascension Worldwide, hosts an Unconscious Bias training with ANS staff.

IDEA—Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

ANS aims to better reflect the rich diversity of our region among our members, staff, board, volunteers, and program participants.

In addition to many other accomplishments, we held an all-staff Unconscious Bias Training, piloted a mandatory IDEA training for volunteer staff, began interviewing diverse candidates for every open position at ANS, and hired and worked with a consultant to equip the organization to make

progress every year toward IDEA goals. We created new partnerships to help ANS plan to serve people with disabilities through our Visitor Experience and Interpretation Plan and accessible trail and recruited diverse candidates to serve on the Woodend 2065 Committee and Board of Directors and we hosted a Taking Nature Black *Black History Month Event* as part of our Conservation Café series.

Naturally Latinos Conference

The second ANS Naturally Latinos Conference, held on March 27th,



Puerto Rican Meteorologist Ada Monzón offered a compelling narrative for how she helped fellow islanders survive Hurricane Maria using mostly social media.

Photo by Ben Israel.

was a roaring success! ANS Conservation Director Eliza Cava and School Programs Manager Serenella Linares co-chaired this standing-room-only conference.

We attracted 190 attendees, 24 sponsoring organizations, 14 volunteers, and 20 ANS staff to support the conference.

Board member Dr. Patricia Hernandez welcomed the audience on behalf of ANS and the Board. The keynote speech by Ada Monzón, a Puerto Rican science educator and meteorologist who was instrumental in saving lives

during Hurricane Maria, was a huge highlight. Monzón was interviewed by Telemundo before she gave her speech to a capacity crowd.

The Spring edition of the Naturalist Quarterly featured advance coverage of the conference with interviews from three speakers, Ada Monzón, Board candidate Abel Olivo, and ANS member Danielle Reyes.

Of the conference attendees who submitted feedback forms, 49% were new to ANS.

SIGNATURE EVENTS



ANS Member and Instructor Mark Garland is all smiles after receiving the distinguished Bartsch Award, in the company of other Bartsch Award winners; Don Messersmith, Cris Fleming, and Marcia and Kent Minichiello. *Photo by Ben Israel.*



Board Secretary Rebecca Turner and Executive Director Lisa Alexander celebrate at the Annual Holiday Party. *Photo by Luca Photography.*

Development

ANS members packed Woodend Mansion to celebrate ANS naturalist extraordinaire, Mark Garland, as he received ANS's top honor, the Paul Bartsch Award for Distinguished Contributions to Natural History. Congratulations again to Mark and all his devoted fans!

ANS offered a special presentation by Dr. Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology,

University of Delaware, on Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home.

ANS hosted its third art installation at Woodend with Climate Art and Action: a special art exhibit by Honoring the Future that featured photographs of the works of 10 pioneering climate artists.

We are grateful to all ANS members and supporters who attended our two annual fundraising events:

ANS Autumn Lights Holiday partygoers enjoyed bidding on

auction items donated by ANS members and local businesses while they dined on delicious cuisine by Putting on the Ritz and Design Cuisine.

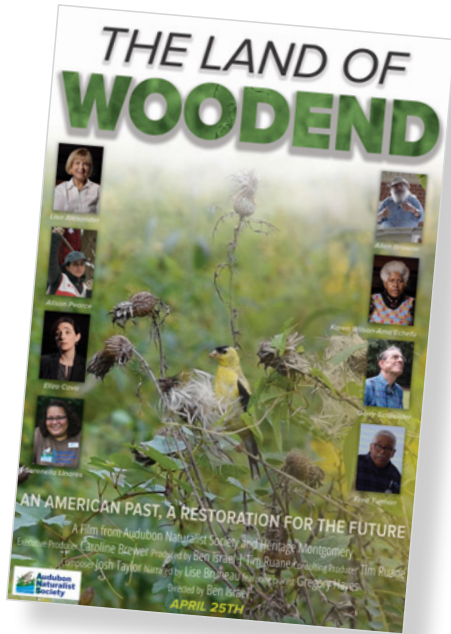
Audubon After Dark guests celebrated 50 years of nature exploration at Woodend Sanctuary, enjoyed the company of feathered, furry and six-legged friends, and feasted on catering donated by Spilled Milk, Catering by Seasons, and Medina Cuisine. Auction items flew off the tables as fireflies danced in the distance.

These two events raised more than \$80,000 in support of ANS's education, conservation and restoration programs.

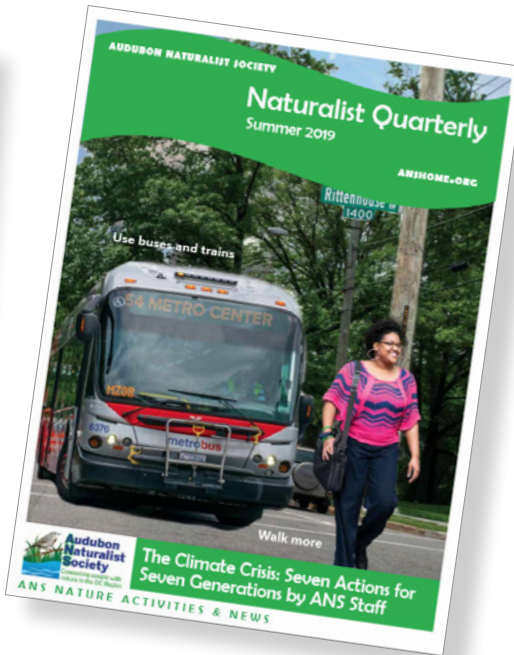
This year's annual Bloomin' Birdathon broke all records raising more than \$36,000 in support of ANS's mission work. A big thank you to all those who counted birds and blooms on behalf of ANS and a special thank you to everyone who supported these important fundraisers.



ANS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Land of Woodend movie poster unveiled at April premiere, designed by Gabriela Paola Franco Pena.



Naturalist Quarterly's Climate Crisis magazine cover.



Eliza Cava and WAMU Talk Show Host Kojo Nnamdi share Ice Cream at the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Kojo Nnamdi Show. Photo by Caroline Brewer.

Marketing and Communications

Marketing and Communications delivered a year of new media milestones, *The Land of Woodend* Documentary in honor of ANS's 50th Anniversary at Woodend and our Nature for All campaign.

ANS gained 200 new members and positive media attention by offering

free memberships to furloughed workers during the federal government shutdown.

We renovated and launched new web pages for the Naturalist Shop, Woodend Restoration, Nature for All, and the Climate Crisis.

ANS attracted record-setting media coverage over the course of the year with stories such

as Conservation's DC Streams Report, the successful fight to save Dogue Creek, and the battle to save the Nanjemoy Forest in Charles County from destruction, our nature Summer Camp and Woodend Restoration. Our media star shone in multiple media outlets, including *the Washington Post*, *Bethesda Magazine*, *WAMU*, *NBC4*, *WJLA*, and the *Atlantic*.

Communications outreach boosted attendance at our Conservation Cafés and attracted more diverse audiences to the gatherings.

Our Naturalist Quarterly devoted to action on the Climate Crisis debuted a new format and won media attention and accolades from ANS members.

THE NATURALIST SHOP



Shop volunteer Ric Simmons tries out new binoculars. Photo by Ben Israel.



Our great selection of holiday cards is an annual customer favorite. Photo by Ben Israel.

The Naturalist Shop welcomed hundreds of first-time visitors to Woodend and loaned nature backpacks to many excited children. Our shop was the gateway through which 150 new members joined the ANS ranks this year. Highlights included a packed book signing by local author and ANS field trip leader Melanie Choukas-Bradley who spoke about her latest book, *The Joy of Forest Bathing*.

In a new twist, the Shop co-sponsored an off-site book signing and party at the home of a generous ANS member. The party introduced Smithsonian Ornithologist Bruce Beehler's beautiful new book, *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, & DC*. Our redesigned Shop web page showcased the Shop's attractive selection and welcoming atmosphere. And at the end of the summer the Shop held a Sidewalk Sale to the delight of nature lovers who are also bargain hunters!



RENTALS



Photo by Pamela Leopold Photography.



Photo by Mason Photography.

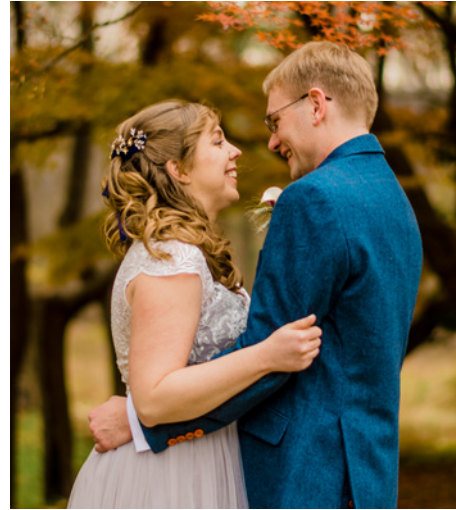


Photo by Mason Photography.



Photo by Pamela Leopold Photography.

This past year, the wedding industry in the DC region took a hit when the government shut down, (Who can pay for a wedding during a shutdown?) and Woodend was not spared. We worked tirelessly with our clients to minimize their stress. Our show of support paid off. We booked 97 events, slightly down from the previous year, but more than 10 percent higher than FY2017. We received great reviews on the wedding web sites, WeddingWire and The Knot.

Lauryn & Michael's Wedding,
by Paperboys

Joe & Gabby Naldo, by Wise Films

Lu & Fangzhou's Wedding,
by Paperboys

Testimonials

“ Our wedding at Woodend Sanctuary was absolutely perfect. The venue was exactly what we were looking for: a wonderful combination of indoor and outdoor space that allowed us to take full advantage of the beautiful scenery. We loved every minute of working with Woodend, and the space on the day completely blew us away. ”

—Yoan, April 2019

“ It ended up raining pretty much all day on our wedding day. But it didn't really matter one bit. Woodend was still the perfect venue for our wedding. We're also happy that our venue fee supported the Audubon Naturalist Society—definitely a “win” for any couple interested in hosting a more eco-friendly event. ”

—Tacy, May 2019

TOP DONORS

September 1, 2018–August 31, 2019

ANS offers sincere thanks to the following individuals, families, foundations, businesses, organizations that supported ANS during our last fiscal year. Although we do not have space to acknowledge everyone, we are extremely grateful for the generosity of each supporter.

() Funding ANS programs through a multi-year contribution.*

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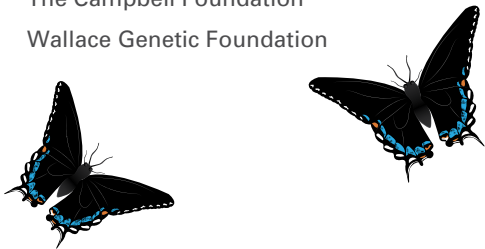
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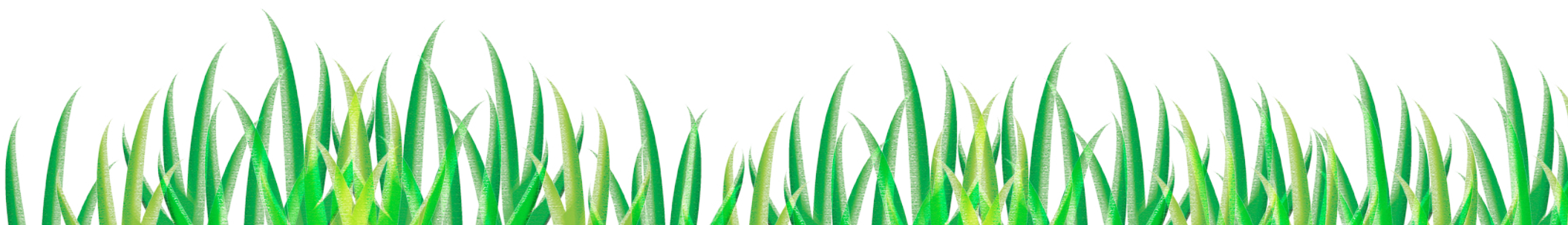
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As of August 31, 2019

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported our Nature for All campaign to restore Woodend Nature Sanctuary. As of August 31, 2019, we had raised \$3,850,000 in gifts and pledges towards our \$4 million goal.

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VOLUNTEERS

284 people volunteered **11,121** hours, the equivalent value of five full-time staff or \$220,000.

ANS's AMAZING Volunteers:

- Rerouted and improved trails;
- Removed non-native plants and planted native species;
- Enlarged the Children's Learning Garden;
- Expanded the Beginner Bird Walks program and community science data collection;
- Provided top-notch support to Summer Camp;

Master Naturalists alone provided 5,991 hours of volunteer service. And because we know a good thing when we see it, ANS trained 18 new Master Naturalists this year. Already, these new Master Naturalists have given nearly 1,250 hours of their time. Another 20 students have enrolled in the 2019 Master Naturalist Class.

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Joanne Levy
Denise Lewis
Yishen Li
Nathaniel Liu
Dave Lyon
Alesha Mack
Koki Maeda
Masaya Maeda
Shaheen Mahmooth
Andrea Mangum
Nicole Martino
John Matuszak
Conrad May
Kaitlyn Mayberry
Jim McCarthy
Tom McCoy
Susan McLaughlin
Jack McMahon
Maura McMullen
Susan Milius
Kaylyn Miller

Gale Minnich Blewis
Kevin Misener
Roger Moran
Gwen Morrison
Sarah Morse
Beth Mullin
Yuri Nakai
Susan Nerlinger
David Novello
Lucky Omoding
Stephen Panossian
Florencio Paraon
Gisselle Paraon
Gregg Petersen
Ed Pfister
Chris Powell
Debra Prybyla
Diyan Rahaman
Pat Ratkowski
Sara Robinson
Susan Robinson
Bob Rushing
Kathy Rushing
Lynn Rust
Matthew Sampson
Adriana Sanchez
Frank Sanford
Heather Schoning
Marcie Schubert
Sandy Schultz
Gretchen Schwartz
Roy Seidenstein
Natasha Shangold
Suzanne Shoemaker
Jonathan Simak
Olga Simakova
Michael Simon
Bradley Simpson

Bryan Sirotkin
Roxane Sismanidis
Deirdre Smith
Karen Smith
Mike Smith
Patty Smith
Jack Sobel
Maria Sola Simon
Fate Stanley
Veronica Stanley
Corinne Lackner Stephens
Julie Super
KayTaub
Sidwell Friends Students
Sidwell Friends Teachers
Bob Toth
Alison Trackman
Gregg Trilling
Lori Tsang
Thomas Urban
Alice Viechnicki
Henry Viechnicki
Nate Viechnicki
Peter Viechnicki
Steve Wachs
Marti Wade
Liz Wagner
Tracy Waldon
Genevieve Wall
Paula Wang
Weeun Wang
Dani Weissman
Glenn Welch
Marjorie Wellman
Cathy Wiss
Tenley Wurglitz
Bill Yeaman
Nicole Zimmerman
Theresa Zmola



ANS BY THE NUMBERS

\$250,000

Bond Bill towards
an accessible trail at
Woodend

\$3,850,000

raised for Nature for All Capital Campaign

\$18,000

grant from Montgomery
County Council for Unplug
and Play Nature Clubs

12,711

Creek Critters smartphone app users
tested stream health

\$36,000

raised - a record amount - for the
Annual Bloomin' Birdathon

11,121

volunteer hours donated in service of
our mission work

3,165

trees identified, measured
and tagged as part of our
forest survey

4,653

students grew and ate salads
through the GreenKids Salad
Science program

498

visits to DC metro area
streams to monitor water
quality

500

new native plants and trees put
in the ground for restoration

143

letters sent to MD
Department of the
Environment to protect
the Nanjemoy Forest

94

Audubon Nature Preschool families
living the outdoor life with us

150

Adult classes and field trip
experiences offered

50

years at Woodend Nature
Sanctuary celebrated

22

DC schools benefited from our
Garbology science program

1

new ANS documentary,
The Land of Woodend,
debuted

**Audubon
Naturalist
Society**