

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

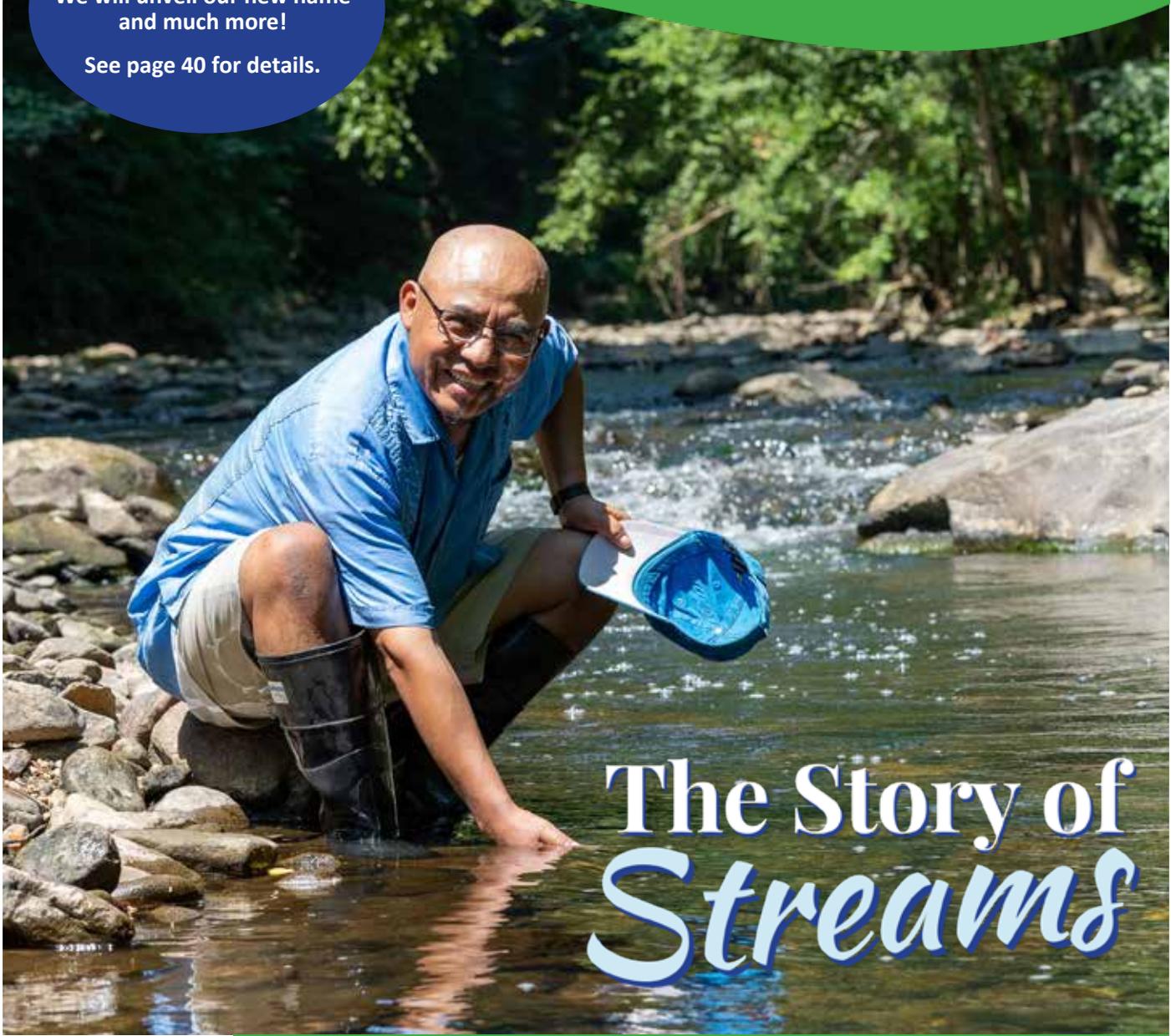
Naturalist Quarterly

Autumn 2022

ANSHOME.ORG

Join us for our
Annual Membership Meeting.
We will unveil our new name
and much more!

See page 40 for details.



The Story of Streams



Together, we can make progress

AN\$ NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

The Audubon Naturalist Society inspires residents of the greater Washington, DC region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

HEADQUARTERS

Woodend, a 40-acre wildlife sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

STORE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11 AM-3 PM

GROUND HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$15
Individual \$50
Family \$65
Nature Steward \$100
Audubon Advocate \$200
Sanctuary Guardian \$500
Naturalists Council \$1,000
Preservationist \$1,000+

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Naturalist Quarterly

ANShome.org Autumn 2022

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COVER Norberto Martinez at Northwest Branch. Photo by Ben Israel.

From the Director

Looking Forward

Greetings ANS members, I am just wrapping up my summer sabbatical that included adventures in Alaska and Canada. I look forward to sharing all my nature notes with you soon - think whales, puffins, seals and more! Thank you for your good wishes for my time away. I am pleased to report that I feel relaxed, refreshed and raring to go for the new and exciting projects we have on the horizon.



First and foremost, I want to tell you how proud and grateful I am to the ANS staff, our pro bono attorney, Jody Kline from Miller, Miller and Canby, our Nature Play Space Committee, our generous donors and funders, and all the Woodend neighbors and friends who stood steadfastly with our organization as we moved our Nature Play Space forward through years of permit reviews, mountains of paperwork and hours of hearings. We use the motto 'dogged perseverance,' and persevere we did to win Board of Appeals approval for the fourth and final promise of our Nature for All campaign, our wheelchair accessible Nature Play Space.

We are excited to break ground in the coming year! Turn to page 28 to see the engaging designs that will enable children of all abilities to play together in nature. We need all children to become stewards of our planet for the next generation. The Nature Play Space will be the incubator where thousands of children learn to love and cherish the environment.

And you have a chance to make it all possible. If you are able, please contribute to the Nature Play Space today by making a gift at anshome.org/playspace. This beautiful

space, designed in collaboration with the Montgomery County Public Schools Office of Students with Disabilities and our Nature Play Space Committee, will be a regional model for ensuring children of all abilities have the chance to build foundational connections with nature. That's Nature for All in a nutshell!

I'm pleased to announce that by the end of 2022, we will have completed our next Strategic Plan. Over the summer, we've been interviewing stakeholders, holding focus groups, and making progress on ambitious goals for the next three to five years. I know you will be excited by the new plan's focus on impact and all the ways the plan unifies our mission work across geographies, audiences, and interests. There is so much for us to look forward to as a community of nature lovers.

And the news you've been waiting for will be announced soon! Our new name will be a banner we can carry proudly forward to a bright and inclusive future. I've been deeply engaged in the renaming process for almost two years, so this feels natural to me. But for you, the newness may feel different and strange for a while. I encourage you to take this journey with me, our staff, your Board and your fellow members. Please join us for member previews of our new name. We will host both in-person and virtual events in October to debut our exciting new name. I hope you will join me at one of these events as we embrace our new, welcoming, inclusive brand together. And then we'll celebrate the new name at our Annual Meeting on October 20. I'll hope to see you there!

As always, I am proud to partner with each and every one of you to keep nature for all a top priority in the DC metro region!



Holiday Lights

Holiday Party at Woodend

Enjoy music, food and drinks with family and friends while supporting Environmental Education, Conservation & Restoration.

And get a jump on your holiday shopping with a unique gift at our silent auction!

Get your tickets at anshome.org/holiday-party

Saturday
December 3
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Together, we can make progress

That's the idea behind the new Story of Streams Report



Pictured at the August 10 launch of *The Story of Streams* are ANS Director of Conservation Eliza Cava; Ab Jordan, Jr., Chair, Friends of Oxon Run; Nora Swisher, President, Neighbors of the Northwest Branch; and Whitney Redding, President, Friends of Holmes Run

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Teamwork makes the streams work!

Using new types of data and real peoples' stories as motivators, the Audubon Naturalist Society along with watershed group partners, Friends of Holmes Run, Friends of Oxon Run, and the Neighbors of the Northwest Branch, have created the first-of-its-kind *Story of Streams*, a report card designed to encourage greater public engagement around local stream health. The new *Story of Streams* report (anshome.org/the-story-of-streams) aims to raise the profile of area waterways by calling attention to their conditions, highlighting what makes them essential to wildlife and people, and describing what actions each of us can take to protect them.

"Streams are ubiquitous. They're everywhere and yet somehow manage to be invisible to us," says Whitney Redding, president of Friends of Holmes Run. Redding thanked the ANS team for having the "vision and foresight to give smaller streams their attention."

"That little stream that runs under the road you're driving on, or behind your property line, only to disappear from sight, is actually going somewhere," Redding added. "Inland stream networks such as Holmes Run are literally the lifeblood for wildlife, from your nearest pocket park all the way to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. They connect communities. They cool down neighborhoods."

The *Story of Streams* report rates Holmes Run, Northwest Branch, and Oxon Run based on four measures: water quality; access to nature; climate; and biodiversity and habitats. The findings? The three streams surveyed received moderately poor to fair ratings. However, the good news is the story doesn't have to end there.

"We understand the importance of healthy streams and what we must do to improve our watershed," said Absalom Jordan, Jr., Chair of the Friends of Oxon Run. "*Story of Streams* is an excellent resource and reminder of why we protect our environment."

"The road to better health for our streams depends on three things: less pavement, more trees and wetlands, and cleaner air," said ANS Director of Conservation Eliza Cava during an August 10 launch event held along the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River. "These ideas are not rocket science, but they are really hard to achieve. It will take all of us."

"Streams are like a circulatory system interacting with the animals, plants, soil and insects around them," said Nora Swisher, President, Neighbors of the Northwest Branch. "The more awareness we can bring to the health of our streams, the better we can protect and restore them."

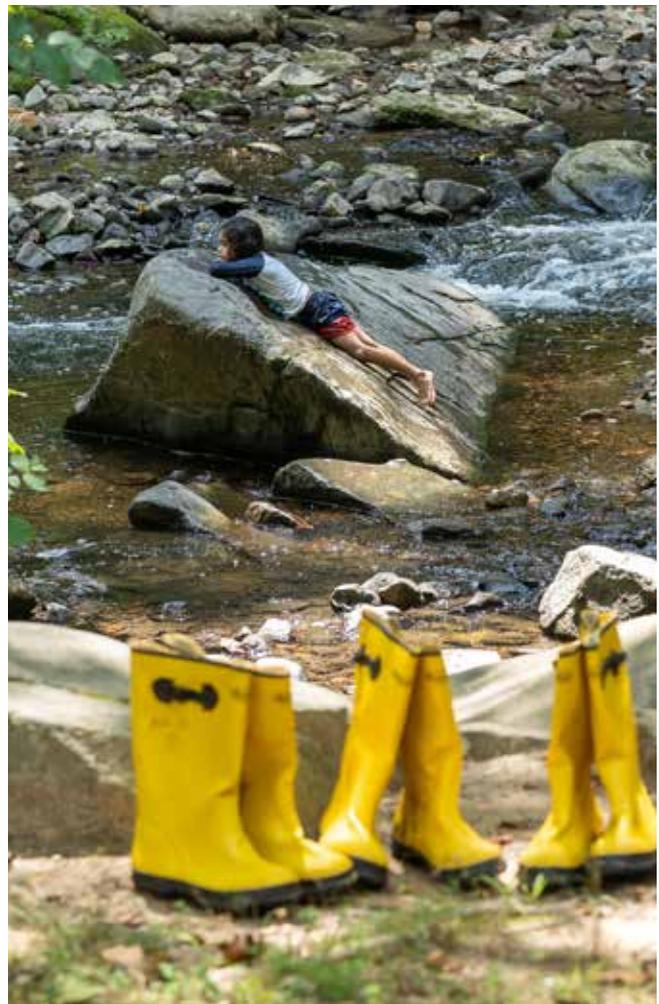


The *Story of Streams*, produced with the generous support of the Raines Family Fund, builds on ANS's Water Quality Monitoring program, one of the longest-running community science efforts around. By showcasing the personal connections between the streams and the people and communities that regularly interact with them, ANS and its partners hope to inspire individuals to do at least one thing to help protect streams.

"The report shows the present state of Oxon Run is 'moderately poor,'" Jordan noted. "We are distinguished as being the stream most in need of attention of the three studied...This puts both the federal and District governments on notice."

Jeffrey Seltzer, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Administration, Department of Energy and Environment in Washington, DC, accepted the challenge and added an equally important perspective.

"As we all know, for centuries, we've abused our waterways, haven't treated our natural resources with respect... I'm optimistic that has changed," Seltzer said. "We're making billions of dollars of investment in the District alone. Our goal is to make fishable swimmable waters."



Seltzer adds that there are encouraging signs, from the nesting bald eagles on the Anacostia to the fish species that are returning to the river.

We all want cleaner streams. Getting there will require more people to see themselves as water protectors. Individual actions can include urging elected officials to protect forests and strengthen tree canopy policies, volunteering with a watershed organization, or downloading ANS's Creek Critters® smartphone app which allows users to gauge stream health by learning what organisms live in the water. You can find more ways to join the movement at anshome.org/the-story-of-streams/take-action-to-help-our-streams.

You can also learn more about the *Story of Streams* report during a special Conservation Café presentation on September 22. See p. 9 for details.

"The story of the streams is really our story," Cava added. "We are proud to have produced this comprehensive report allowing us to deepen our connection with our neighbors in this fight for our streams."

Photos by Ben Israel and Gabriela Paola Franco Peña

Glorious: Adult Learning with NHFS



Highlighted by numerous butterfly and dragonfly sightings as well as an encounter with a "blue" green tree frog, instructor Rick Borchelt described a recent visit to the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD as a "glorious day in the field!"

It was also a hands-on learning experience for students in his Naturalist History Field Studies (NHFS) course titled *Butterflies of Spring*. Borchelt, Director for Communications and Public Affairs at the US Department of Energy's Office of Science, is an expert in butterfly identification and conservation. Featuring online lectures and four in-person field trips, his course helped students sharpen their butterfly ID skills and gain a deeper understanding of butterfly ecology and behavior. This course is just one example of the many amazing nature learning opportunities available through the NHFS program.

After more than 60 years, ANS's Natural History Field Studies program continues to provide year-round nature classes for adult learners in the DC region. Open to adults 18 years of age or older, the NHFS program is a continuing education resource offering an in-depth and stimulating view of our region's natural history and conservation issues

through a combination of classroom lectures and field trips. Courses are open to nature neophytes and experienced naturalists alike and are taught at roughly a college freshman level.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, ANS unveiled a new way to participate in NHFS classes by delivering course lectures online via Zoom with in-person outdoor field trips limited to smaller groups to enhance safety. Although pandemic restrictions have eased, both students and instructors so enjoyed the freedom of learning from home that we've retained the virtual classroom model.

In a recent student survey, all fifty respondents said the NHFS program helped enhance their appreciation of the natural world. Similarly, all said they were either very likely (92%) or somewhat likely (8%) to recommend the program to others.

"I love this program," one respondent exclaimed. "It has been the best thing I have done in years, and I am so excited to be a part of it."

"I tell my friends that Natural History Field Studies is everything adult education should be: learning for the love of learning, with a group of motivated



peers," said former student Robin Gray. "ANS in general, and the field studies program in particular, are at the top of the best things about living in this metro area."

Students can earn a Certificate of Accomplishment in Natural History by completing a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). However, anyone can enroll in any class simply for the sheer joy of learning from leading regional nature experts. The impact can be profound.

"The ANS course that in some way changed the way I perceive the world around us was the Summer Bird Life, over 20 years ago," former student Josephine Cox recalls. "My husband and I took that course and we learned a lot of bird physical IDs but more importantly we learned about birding by ear. To this day, it has helped us ID birds by sound whatever we are doing."

New Natural History Field Studies courses are offered four times a year. For a listing of Fall 2022 courses and a preview of Winter 2023 courses, see pages 22-23 or visit anshome.org/nhfs.



Photos by Ben Israel

Conservation



POLICY AND ADVOCACY NEWS

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: America's best chance to take federal action on climate change! After decades of failing to pass federal climate policy, and almost two years of the current Congress going through heartbreaking reversals, continued obstruction by the Republican Party, and failed dealmaking, the Democratic Senate (with a tie-breaking vote by Vice President Harris) passed \$360 billion in comprehensive energy and climate programs in August. There is much more to do and the bill includes both unnecessary giveaways to fossil fuel companies and some concerns for environmental justice, but finally there is reason for hope that we can transform our transportation and building emissions and fight climate change nationwide!

Washington, DC

DC is Keeping its Climate Commitments and Phasing Out Methane Gas for Buildings: Read ANS's testimony and advocacy efforts that contributed to the new Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment and the Climate Commitment Act of 2021 by both DC Council and Mayor Bowser. **TAKE ACTION** – Sign our partner's petition (The Sierra Club) to the Construction Codes Coordinating Board to encourage a head start on electrification efforts of newly constructed buildings in the District.

Maryland

Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law: Read about ANS's and the MOCO Forest Coalition's work on strengthening the County's Forest Conservation Law in Bethesda Beat (tinyurl.com/ANSforests). **TAKE ACTION** – Email your MOCO Councilmembers urging them to introduce the new forest bill by early September. Send your letter today! Visit <https://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/call-email-moco-council-to-save-moco-forests>.

Virginia

Thoughtful planning needed for stream valley bike trails in Fairfax County: Since the beginning of the year, ANS has been facilitating dialogue sessions with our colleagues involved in protecting natural spaces and promoting active transportation, like bicycling, in Fairfax County. Long-awaited new bike paths are moving towards construction along Accotink Creek and other stream valley forests. While some of these paths create crucial, safe, off-road transit connections, some present unacceptable tradeoffs in bisecting globally rare habitat with pavement and lighting. ANS has decided to oppose a particular segment (#6) of the Cinder Bed Road bikeway project and is working hard to improve the planning and environmental review process for future bikeways to reduce these kinds of conflicts.

Get involved and learn more!

Sign up for our Action Alert Network at <https://anshome.org/action-alerts/> and visit <http://conservationblog.anshome.org>.



Workshop: Environmental & Conservation Advocacy 101

Thursday, November 3 (1-3:30 pm)

ANS members \$20; nonmembers \$30

Instructor: Eliza Cava (via Zoom)

Register at anshome.org/training

What's your environmental issue? Our workshop will cover the following key introductory skills: starting with and communicating your WHY, connecting environmental solutions with human needs, and introducing campaigning skills that allow everyone to bring their strengths to the table!

Volunteer with ANS Conservation on Advocacy & Policy!

Our new Conservation Advocacy volunteer corps meets bimonthly for training, idea sharing, and new assignments. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 18 at 1 pm. Email jamoni.overby@anshome.org to get involved.

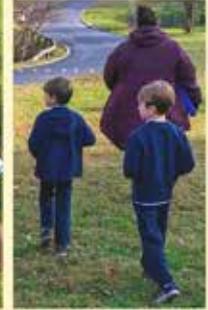
(Virtual) Conservation Café

Join us for inspiring **virtual** conversations on nature conservation topics. Your \$10-15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! Complimentary registrations available, contact eliza.cava@anshome.org. See detailed descriptions and register at anshome.org/conservation-cafe. All programs run from 7-8:30 pm.

- **The Story of Streams** (Thursday, September 22)
Hear from Conservation Director Eliza Cava about ANS's new report on the health of three local streams – Oxon Run, Holmes Run, and the Northwest Branch. How are they doing? The data tell a mixed story. But YOU can help write the ending! See p. 4-5 to learn more about our new report.
- **America the Beautiful For All** (Wednesday, October 19)
Join Mariana Del Valle Prieto Cervantes, Director of Strategic Initiatives at GreenLatinos, to learn about this powerful new coalition that reflects the diversity of America and centers the voices of people of color working to conserve 30% of our public lands, waters, and ocean by 2030. The political power necessary to accomplish the twin goals of conservation and environmental justice rests entirely on our ability to shift power, grow, and cultivate a united environmental community that truly represents America. We are stronger and more effective when we work together.
- **What is a Land Acknowledgment Really All About?** (Thursday, November 17)
Join Rico Newman, Elder of the Choptico Band of Piscataway Conoy, as he acknowledges and thanks the land for its blessings and then teaches about what a land acknowledgment is, who "should" do them, why and how to do them, what it means to do a land acknowledgment well, and what not to do. This talk is geared at a non-Native audience but those with experience and expertise are welcome to contribute their own perspectives as well.



Connecting Youth to Nature



Small Class Size + Wonderful Teachers + Warm Community + Child-Directed + Nature Hikes



Audubon Nature Preschool Acorns Program

Ages 4 and younger

Guided Nature Hikes with a Favorite Caregiver

Wednesdays from 9-10:15 am OR 10:45 - Noon

Thursdays from 9-10:15 am OR 10:45 - Noon



Limited Enrollment still available at anshome.org/acorns or (301) 652-9188 ex. 32

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NATURE BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT ANS

Create lasting memories for your child
and also support nature conservation and education



Explore Woodend Nature Sanctuary with a naturalist and enjoy nature-themed activities and games all outdoors!

For details, visit anshome.org/parents
and click the "BIRTHDAY PARTIES" tab

**Audubon
Naturalist
Society**

Connecting Youth to Nature

Days Off Camps Grades K-5

Come to ANS to experience our 40-acre sanctuary! Learn about nature, explore the pond, and play games.

8:45 am - 5 pm

Monday, Sept. 26, 2022
Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022
Monday, Oct. 24, 2022
Monday, Nov. 7, 2022
Friday, April 21, 2023

Cost (per camp):

\$125 for ANS Members
\$145 for Non-members



Spring Break Camp April 3 to April 6, 2023

Enjoy the wonders of Spring at Camp Woodend! Catch frogs in the pond, hike to Rock Creek, and get your hands dirty in our Learning Garden!

Grades K-5

8:45 am - 3 pm

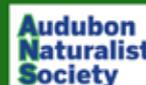
Cost:

\$370 for ANS Members
\$400 for Non-members

Extended camp available until 5:15 for \$100

Register now at anshome.org/parents

For more, contact: denis.perez@anshome.org or (301) 652-9188 x 15



Family Walks at Woodend

First Saturday of each month (9-10 am)
Members \$12 per family, nonmembers \$20

Join naturalist and educator, Frank Sanford, on a leisurely walk through the habitats at Woodend. Explore the wonders of trees, meadows, streams, insects, birds, and everything Woodend has to offer! Limited to 6 families. Register at anshome.org/woodend-tours.

We also have **NATURE BACKPACKS** available! Visit our Naturalist Shop to check out a backpack (ID required) that will have tools and activities you and your family can use to explore nature at Woodend Sanctuary. Backpacks are free for check-out in the shop but must be returned by 3 pm. Shop hours are currently M, T, Th, F and Sa from 11 am-3 pm.

Summer Camp 2023



Thank you for a great summer! Tell your friends ANS members-only registration will be on **Monday, January 30** at 10 am. You must be a member before that date or join ANS while registering. Catalogs will be mailed in late December. Visit www.anshome.org/summer-camps for more info.



Children in Nature: Camp Woodend

After several summers of Covid-related restrictions, our summer camps returned to full strength this year! More than 450 students from kindergarten through high school enjoyed amazing outdoor nature adventures at Camp Woodend. We offered nine weeks of camp experiences divided into five sessions. THANK YOU to all of our campers, parents, camp leaders, interns, volunteers and staff for making our return to "normal" camp such an incredible and memorable success. See page 11 for 2023 summer camp registration info.





Adult Nature Programs

Wild places are closer than you think.®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.anshome.org/nature-classes
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org

Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 7 – Riley's Lock

B: September 21 – Carderock

C: October 5 – Widewater

D: October 19 – Pennyfield Lock

E: November 2 – Violettes' Lock

Each walk members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Enjoy one or more of these leisurely autumn walks on relatively close-in portions of the C&O Canal which see less foot and bicycle traffic during the week than on weekends. The focus of our walks will be the general natural history of the varied habitats along the Potomac River and the Canal. We'll proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles—whatever we might find.

ANS COVID Policy for Outdoor Adult Programs

Continuing this fall, both leaders and participants are asked to observe social distancing throughout our outdoor field trips. We request that any participant or leader who has not been vaccinated for Covid-19 wear a mask. Of course, participants are always welcome to wear a mask if they are more comfortable doing so. If you test positive for COVID, you may participate in ANS activities after you have a negative antigen/home test no sooner than 5 days after the first positive test. Twelve will be our usual group size maximum, unless an outing's focus and/or field conditions call for a smaller group. All of the policies above are subject to change.

Fridays at Carderock

A: September 9 (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

B: October 7 (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

C: November 4 (10 am-2:30 pm)

D: December 2 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$35; nonmembers \$49

An elder of a Native American tribe from the Pacific Northwest advised: *There is more to be learned by climbing the same mountain a hundred times than by climbing a hundred different mountains.* Following this admonition, our Senior Naturalist continues this 2022 series of broad-based nature explorations along the Potomac River's C&O Canal and its varied habitats: from upland rocky woods to rich floodplain forests. After a summer hiatus, our hikes will return each month to a stretch of Towpath moving from the Carderock Recreation Area upriver to Widewater. We'll retrace our steps along the Canal back to Carderock for a total of around 4 miles. We'll experience lingering summer in September, autumn's colorful transformations in October and November, and then the arrival of winter's open landscapes in December. On each walk, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for the changing seasonal activity of wildlife and plant life. *These hikes will move faster and farther than our usual naturalists' shuffle.*



Fall Birding Series

- A: Saturday, September 10: National Arboretum, DC (Paul Pisano) (8-10:30 am) **WAITLIST OPEN****
- B: Tuesday, September 13: Redgate Park, MD (Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni) (7:30-10 am)**
- C: Saturday, September 24: Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA (Paul Pisano) (7:30-10 am)**
- D: Sunday, October 2: Piscataway Park, MD (Cathy Stragar) (8-10:30 am)**
- E: Wednesday, October 12: Lois Green Conservation Park, MD (Mark England) (8-10:30 am)**
- F: Sunday, October 16: Hughes Hollow, MD (Len Bisson) (8-10:30 am)**
- G: Saturday, October 22: Dyke Marsh, VA (Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton) (8-10:30 am)**
- H: Sunday, October 30: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni) (8-10:30 am)**
- I: Sunday, November 6: Patuxent Research Refuge/Main Tract, MD (Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton) (8-10:30 am)**
- Each walk members \$33; nonmembers \$46**

Our fall birding series visits natural areas under an hour's drive from DC where a variety of habitats—including field, forest, and wetland—provide good opportunities for the observation and ID of birds in autumn. On the earliest walks, we'll hope to catch some southbound migrants—including those “confusing fall warblers.” As the season progresses, we'll watch for sparrows, raptors, waterfowl, and other birds, both resident and overwintering in the region. These teaching walks are aimed at beginning to mid-level birders, but all are welcome. *Our explorations will be on mostly level, natural surface trails that may be uneven, muddy, and/or somewhat slippery.*

Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers

- Sunday, September 11 (9 am-2 pm)**
Leader: Stephanie Mason
Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

In PG County, the Jug Bay Natural Area on the western shore of the Patuxent River protects old field, forest, and freshwater tidal habitats that are ideal for broad-based nature exploration. Each September, our Senior Naturalist looks forward to this broad-based search for still-active butterflies and other insects, migrant and resident birds, and other local wildlife against the backdrop of late summer blooms and fruiting trees and shrubs. *Expect a leisurely hike of around 2-3 miles with a small amount of uphill and downhill.*

Insects After Dark

- Thursday, September 15 (7:30-9:30 pm)**
Leader: Cliff Fairweather
Members \$30; nonmembers \$40

We've enlisted a passionate bug-hugger to help us investigate the variety of insects going about their nightly business in the habitats of our Woodend Sanctuary. Using black lights, which are high in the ultraviolet range, we'll hope to attract moths, beetles, katydids and other nocturnal insects. We'll use careful catch-and-release for closer inspections of some of these creatures, while enjoying the splendid, late-summer chorus of katydids and tree crickets.

Butterfly Migrants at Glendening Preserve

- Saturday, September 17 (10 am-12:30 pm)**
Rain Date: Sunday, September 18
Leader: Rick Borchelt
Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

The Parris N. Glendening Preserve in Anne Arundel Co.'s Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary maintains a large butterfly garden that is one of the best area locations for late-summer migrant butterflies, including Long-tailed Skippers, Ocola Skippers, Fiery Skippers, Cloudless Skippers and Sleepy Oranges, and, of course, Monarchs. We'll spend most of our time exploring this active garden, boosting participants' skills identifying difficult-to-ID skippers, with a short walk into surrounding fields for late summer dragonfly and damselflies as well as other insects. The leader teaches butterfly classes in our Natural History Field Studies program. He is the creator of LepLog, a blog about butterfly and moth observation, research, and conservation.

Getting to Know the Ancients

- Sunday, September 18 (9 am-Noon)**
Leader: Kit Sheffield
Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Here's a chance to learn more about an ancient part of our flora which preceded flowering plants and has existed since the time of the dinosaurs. Our living classroom will be the rich woodlands of Riverbend Park near Great Falls, VA. *Expect a little over a 2-mile hike, with some uphill/downhill on natural surface trails, as we learn to ID ferns in their habitats and discuss their natural history.*





Fall Flora Fridays

Fridays, (10 am-1 pm)

A: September 23—Violette's Lock, MD

B: October 21—Huntley Meadows Park, VA

C: November 18—Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC

Leaders: Marney Bruce (A) and Stephanie Mason (B & C)

Each walk: members \$33; nonmembers \$46

These walks of up to two miles will celebrate the transition from lingering summer blooms to ripening fall seeds and fruits—to the grand show of dramatic foliage color and leaf fall. Although aimed at beginning to mid-level plant enthusiasts, all are welcome. *Expect a stop-and-go pace on basically flat trails (natural surface on A & C; boardwalk on B) in three local parks offering a mix of habitats.*

Natural Heritage Series: Blue Ridge Beginnings

Wednesday, September 28 (9:30 am-3:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$40; nonmembers \$56

A little more than an hour northwest of Washington lies Catoctin Mountain, the front edge of the Blue Ridge. Here, on a day of the week when visitors are few, we'll enjoy early autumn in Catoctin Mountain Park. We'll hike around up to around 3 miles, at a leisurely pace, as we look for the plants and animals that inhabit the Park's woods and waterways.

In addition to natural history, we'll consider the Mountain's cultural history and past land uses. *Our explorations will include some uphill and downhill hiking over rocky ground, which may be muddy and/or slippery.*

Here Comes Fall

Friday, September 30 (10 am-12:30 pm)

Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Anne DeNovo

Members: \$33; nonmembers \$46

Celebrate autumn's arrival with a leisurely hike along the C&O Canal Towpath heading upriver for the old ford at Edward's Ferry, near Poolesville, MD, to Broad Run—and back. Along this peaceful stretch through quiet woods and rolling countryside to open meadows, we'll search for fall fruits and flowers, birds, insects still on the wing, and other signs of the changing season.

Round-trip distance is around 2 miles.

Autumn Along the Water

Saturdays, (9 am-2 pm)

A: October 1—Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA

B: November 12—Potomac Heritage Trail, VA

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$35; nonmembers \$49

Join our Senior Naturalist for one or both of these field trips tracking the unfolding of fall along local waterways rich in natural history. We'll enjoy the changing fall colors as we search for late-season blooms and fruits, resident and migrant birds, and all manner of still-active wildlife. In October, we'll explore the open, grassland habitats and the extensive bottomland trails along Belmont and Occoquan Bays near Woodbridge, VA. November will find us walking the Potomac Heritage Trail from Riverbend Park downriver to Great Falls—and back through the Potomac's rich floodplain forests. *We'll walk between 2.5 to 4 miles on natural surface and possibly muddy trails. November's bottomland hike includes a few rocky stretches.*

Nature Photography Basics

A: Sunday, October 2 (3-6:30 pm)

B: Sunday, November 6 (1-4:30 pm)

Leader: Liz Guertin

Each session members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Join Maryland Master Naturalist & Nature Photographer, Liz Guertin, for a journey into nature photography basics. Use any camera to compose and achieve the best shots possible in the outdoors. All cameras welcome—including your phone! Liz will cover everything from exposure and composition to the craft and ethics of nature photography. Our Section A October venue is the wonderful Patuxent Research Refuge/South Tract at sunset, where photographers can take advantage of fields of blooming goldenrod and beautiful reflections on the lake. In November, Section B's destination will be the Jug Bay Natural Area at sunset, where we can take advantage of deciduous swamp cypress and other fall colors, as well as beautiful reflections on the water. *Our leader reminds you to bring a freshly charged device—and to feel free to bring sample photographs you'd like to discuss.*

Botany Hike in the Bottomlands

Saturday, October 8 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Bradley Simpson

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Our Restoration Manager /tree ID instructor leads this early autumn plant hike to visit the bottomland habitats of Turkey Run Park, situated along the Potomac River and accessed off the GW Parkway near McLean, VA. All things green—or sporting early fall color—will be the hike’s focus: trees and shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns. *Be prepared for a steep hike down (and back up again, of course!) mostly on constructed stairs to reach the bottomland forest—where there may be muddy conditions underfoot on natural surface trails. There will also be a couple of stream crossings to traverse on this roughly 1.5 mile hike.*

Floral Folklore and Ethnobotany

Sunday, October 9 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Alonso Abugattas

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Join Alonso Abugattas, the popular Capital Naturalist blogger, on a floral walk through the less-visited Kings Highway side of Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria, VA. We will explore several habitats there, discussing the natural history, fascinating floral folklore, and purported uses of many of the plants—both common and uncommon—we’ll encounter.

Evening on the Canal

Sunday, October 9 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Join senior naturalist Stephanie Mason on a walk through the woods and along the Potomac River’s C&O Canal beginning at Swain’s Lock near Potomac, MD. As day gives way to dusk—and then to nightfall—we’ll look and listen for owls, foxes, bats, and other nocturnal and crepuscular animals, discussing the adaptations of creatures whose “day” begins as ours ends. Fingers crossed for clear skies so we are able to walk under the light of the month’s full moon.

Introduction to Tree Identification

Thursday, October 13 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

October is a great month to begin learning to ID our local trees and shrubs. With colorful leaves and this season’s seedpods still hanging on, there are visible and fairly easy-to-find distinguishing characteristics to help sort out various species. Based at our Woodend Sanctuary, this learning session will begin under an outdoor awning where we’ll talk about techniques for tree ID, coupled with the introduction to and practice with an ID key. For the rest of our time, we’ll stay outside and practice our new ID skills on the many trees growing on-site. Both beginners and those who want to brush up on their tree ID skills are welcome.



Rocks on the Mall

Saturday, October 15 (1-5 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

Many structures that border the National Mall in downtown Washington proudly showcase the bedrock of other localities. We will meet at the 12th St. & Jefferson Dr. entrance to the Smithsonian Metro station and do a two-mile, flat and easy loop around the eastern end of the Mall. We will examine various building facades, fountains, paving stones and free-standing walls and consider the type of rock, its manner of formation and the place of origin. Limestone, often with fossils visible, is the most common building stone on the Mall, but we will also see good examples of granite, gneiss, marble, dolomite and sandstone. To prevent geologic overload, the trip leader will bring a supply of historical anecdotes about the sites we visit. *Note: Our geology walks move at a faster pace than our usual “naturalists’ shuffle.”*





Forest Nighttime Magic: Bioluminescence and Fluorescence Walk

Saturday, October 15 (6-8:30 pm)

Leader: Serenella Linares

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

There are magical creatures illuminating the forest, away from our eyes during the cool nights of fall. Join Adult Education Director and Mycologist Serenella Linares in an exclusive visit to Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, where we will witness both fungal and invertebrate magic. Learn about the processes producing these light shows and the advantages that this fantastic phenomenon has for the creatures that possess it. *Our program fee does not include the entrance fee of \$6.00 per car for this PG County Park.*

On the Move at Cape May

Tuesday, October 18 (8 am) to

Wednesday, October 19 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$120; nonmembers \$168

New Jersey's Cape May is an astounding place to witness autumn migration. Under the right weather conditions, a single day can bring several thousand southbound hawks, tens of thousands of migrating songbirds, and thousands of Monarch butterflies onto the southern tip of the state. Waterfowl, herons, dragonflies and even bats also travel through Cape May in October. Under the guidance of an expert naturalist and birder who's a local (and a former ANS Senior Naturalist), we'll visit many of the diverse natural areas around Cape May and celebrate the rich spectacle of fall migration. *Overnight options include hotels, B&B's, owner rentals, and campgrounds in and around Cape May, which are booked by participants themselves.*

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Fall on Wheels Along the Canal

Thursday, October 27 (9 am-2 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

Fall colors are blazing and the Towpath along the Potomac River is one of the finest places in the DC Metro area to experience this season's richness. In order to cover more territory and visit more habitats, we'll use bikes to explore the stretch from Swain's Lock to Blockhouse Point, a 9-mile round-trip ride. We'll dismount often to look for fall fruits and admire lingering fall foliage, while keeping an eye and ear open for fall migrants, overwintering birds, and any other still active wildlife. *Bring your own bike.*

Forest Fungi and the Wood Wide Web

A: Friday, October 28 (9:30-11:30 am)

B: Saturday, November 5 (9:30-11:30 am)

Leader: Serenella Linares

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Fall is the season when the majority of mycological friends of trees produce so many of the mushrooms that we observe. Join Adult Education Director, Serenella Linares, on a walk through our Woodend Sanctuary grounds to explore the fascinating connections between trees and fungi, as well as their reproductive strategies. *NOTE: the focus of our field outings is fungi's important and under-appreciated role in forest ecology, not the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.*

Raptors on the Move at Waggoner's Gap

Saturday, October 29 (3/4 day field trip)

Leaders: Liam and Laura McGranaghan

Members \$40; nonmembers \$49

Fall brings thousands of migrating raptors—hawks, falcons, eagles, and their allies—to the Appalachian ridges and Atlantic coast. Our field trip goes to one of the premier hawk-watching sites in the area: Pennsylvania's Waggoner's Gap, about a 2.5-hour drive from DC. Our experienced leaders, known for their raptor expertise, will help you develop your own ID skills for these birds-on-the-move. Getting to the hawk watch lookout—you'll want to bundle up for this rocky and open-air viewing site!—requires walking up a short, but rocky, trail to an outcropping of perched boulders.

Introduction to Botanical Illustration

Friday, November 11 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Jen Brown

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

As the greens of summer fade, fall ushers in an array of glorious colors and forms to explore. In this beginner's session, ANS member and artist Jen Brown will help you learn how to portray fall leaves, fruits and seeds using colored pencil (pictured right). The location for this workshop will be our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD, where native plant gardens and forest offer many subjects for you to sketch. Jen will guide everyone through various colored pencil techniques and then help participants with their own colored pencil drawings of fall items found at Woodend. Depending on outdoor temperatures, we'll spend some (or most) of our time under an outdoor tented space with side flaps which can be adjusted for ventilation. *A list of materials needed for this workshop will be sent two weeks in advance.*



Autumn Tree Walk at Theodore Roosevelt Island

Wednesday, November 16 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$40; nonmembers \$49

Join long-time ANS field trip leader and author of the award-winning book, *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*, and several other nature books, for a seasonal exploration of this 90-acre island in the Potomac River which serves as a fitting memorial to our conservationist and naturalist 26th President—and Audubon Naturalist Society member. This fall tree walk will take you deep into the island, where swamp and tidal inlet can be explored by boardwalk as willows, bald cypresses and cattails frame views of the city behind it. We'll see autumn color among the trees as well as exciting new vistas as the leaves fall. In addition to sharing her knowledge and love of the Island's trees, Melanie will share details of this National Park's fascinating history. Expect a flat walk of nearly two miles at a leisurely pace. *Our circuit walk will traverse natural surface trails as well as boardwalk, both of which may be muddy and/or slippery.*





Enjoy learning about Natural History topics from the comfort of your own home! Visit www.anshome.org/naturalist-hour for a complete listing of programs with area naturalists and scientists this fall. The time of the program doesn't work for you? No problem. Register and receive a recording of the talk by the end of the month. **Cost is \$12 for ANS members and \$15 for nonmembers.**

Mushroom ID Hunt with iNaturalist

FREE

Tuesday, September 6 (7-8:30 pm)

Presenter: Serenella Linares, ANS Adult Education Director

Expand your Identification skills on iNaturalist and help with the thousands of observations made in our region. You'll learn how to use the amazing tools that iNaturalist provides to help you identify your own nature observations and those of others. Our featured mycologist and Adult Education Director at Audubon Naturalist Society, Serenella Linares, will give you a crash course on mushroom and fungal ID, followed by the opportunity to join a virtual breakout room focusing on your own personal area of interest: mushrooms (Basidiomycota), cup fungi (Ascomycota), entomopathogens, and slime molds! This workshop is a great resource for exploration and learning to share knowledge. REGISTER at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fungi-id-hunting-with-inaturalist-tickets-396003706747>.



Beekeeping in a Challenging and Changing Environment

Tuesday, September 13 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: David Mecklenburg, Beekeeper

As the environment changes, beekeeping is changing in ways that challenges today's beekeepers. Fall is the perfect time to prepare for next year. ANS member and Beekeeper David Mecklenburg will share his experiences and observations about bees in Montgomery County. You'll learn astonishing facts about the honey bee, the beekeeping seasons, and resources for learning more about beekeeping. REGISTER at anshome.org/naturalist-hour.

Howard County Butterflies and Their Habits: A Story 8 Years in the Making

Thursday, September 15 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Kevin Heffernan, co-chair of the Howard County Butterfly Survey Program and Naturalist

Witness the real power of community science as Naturalist Kevin Heffernan shares revealing details about the Howard County butterfly survey. Since 2014, more than 130 volunteers have completed more than 5,000 individual counts documenting more than 146,800 individual butterflies of 80 species. You'll learn about the amazing findings from the last eight years including data on biodiversity and year-to-year fluctuations. You'll also discover the reproductive strategies of butterflies, overwintering strategies, and how species have changed in the last 30 years! REGISTER at anshome.org/naturalist-hour.

An Oasis for Birds and Birders: Discover RedGate Park

Tuesday, October 18 (7-8 pm)

**Presenters: Cintia Cabib, Documentary Filmmaker and
Vickie Baily, Nature Photographer**

If you love birds, don't miss this special presentation by filmmaker Cintia Cabib and photographer Vickie Baily! Find out about the incredible transformation of the defunct RedGate Golf Course into a birding paradise. To date, an incredible 166 bird species have been identified at RedGate Park. Vickie will share her stunning photos of birds taken there, while Cintia will preview her documentary "Bird Walk." The virtual program will be followed by an in-person bird walk on October 22 at RedGate Park (separate registration required). [REGISTER](https://anshome.org/naturalist-hour) at anshome.org/naturalist-hour.



Fall Birding at RedGate Park

Saturday, October 22 (9-11 am)

**Leader: Cintia Cabib, Documentary Filmmaker
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Don't miss this exclusive birding adventure with filmmaker Cintia Cabib to experience the kind of birdwatching that inspired her film "Bird Walk." This outing at RedGate Park follows Cintia's October 18 Naturalist Hour presentation (register separately). [REGISTER](https://anshome.org/nature-classes) at anshome.org/nature-classes. Limited to 15 participants.

Monthly ID Calls with iNaturalist

FREE

Get expert guidance to expand your nature knowledge and sharpen your identification skills right from the comfort of your home! Join us each month for a FREE 90-minute virtual lesson on nature identification using the iNaturalist app. Every month, organizers Deborah Barber of the Nature Conservancy, Capital Nature's Ana Ka'ahanui, and Serenella Linares of the Audubon Naturalist Society will introduce you to a featured regional expert for a crash course on identifying and classifying various organisms. We'll spend the rest of our time together honing your skills on the iNaturalist platform and curating the identifications for the DMV region.

All are welcome! To participate, simply create your free iNaturalist account at [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org), and [REGISTER](https://forms.gle/8KmXwKcTZ5inTJK19) for each monthly presentation at: <https://forms.gle/8KmXwKcTZ5inTJK19>. Organized by the Washington DC Area Citizen Science Network, The Nature Conservancy, Capital Nature, and Audubon Naturalist Society.



twitter.com/ANStweets

Natural History Field Studies



This unique continuing education program for adults offers a comprehensive and stimulating view of our region's natural history and conservation issues. Taught at the college freshman level, these evening courses are open to anyone 18 years of age or older—nature professionals and beginning enthusiasts alike. A Certificate of Accomplishment in Natural History is awarded to those choosing to complete a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), but anyone can enroll in any class for the sheer pleasure of learning.

Classes are currently being offered via online Zoom sessions with in-person field trips. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit anshome.org/nhfs.

Non-Native and Invasive Plants

NATH2319E, 1.5 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Mondays, 7-9 pm

Zoom class schedule: September 12-October 10

Field trips: Theodore Roosevelt Island Park - September 17; Patapsco Valley State Park - Avalon Area October 1; Rock Creek Area, October 15

Members \$260, nonmembers \$310

Instructor: Paula Becker

[REGISTER ONLINE](#) or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

What IS the definition of “invasive” and why should we care? Consequences of invasive plants in mid-Atlantic natural areas may be medical, ecological, environmental, or economic. This course will explore the historical and ongoing arrival of invasives, look at their cultural, legal, and ecological significance, and focus time on identification of major species of concern in the mid-Atlantic and possible control measures. Two field trips to local parks will reinforce identification skills and emphasize current management issues.



Find required reading lists and instructor bios at www.anshome.org/nhfs.

Wildlife Ecology

NATH8265E, 3 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Zoom class schedule: September 13-November 15

Field trips (Saturdays): October 1, Huntley Meadows; October 15, Patuxent Research Refuge; October 29, Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge

Members \$350, nonmembers \$400

Instructor: Sally Valdes

[REGISTER ONLINE](#) or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

Gain an understanding of wildlife techniques and theory, including the basics of life history, identification, population and community ecology, habitat management, and animal behavior. Learn how institutional missions and federal laws influence wildlife and habitat conservation, and how humans affect and are affected by wildlife in rural, suburban, and urban environments of the Mid-Atlantic region. Pressing concerns about invasive species, the effects of climate change on wildlife, and the loss and degradation of habitats will also be discussed.

Find details on Winter NHFS classes, which start in January, at ANShome.org/nhfs in November

Winter Bird Life

Mondays, 7-9 pm, 1.5 CEUs

Instructor: Gemma Radko

U.S. Conservation History

Fridays, 12-2 pm, 3 CEUs

Instructor: Eliza Cava

Land-Use Principles

Saturdays IN PERSON at Woodend, 2-5 pm, 3 CEUs

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Introduction to Fungi

NATH7203E, 3 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Zoom class schedule: September 14-November 16

Field trips: Sunday, September 18: Woodend; Saturday, September 24 (6:30-9 pm): Jug Bay; Saturday, October 8: Patuxent Wildlife Refuge; Saturday, October 22: Patuxent

Research Refuge North Track

Members \$380, nonmembers \$430

Instructor: Serenella Linares

[REGISTER ONLINE](#) or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

Fungi are incredibly diverse and fascinating organisms that have shaped the terrestrial biota in ways we are just beginning to understand. During this class we will cover basic biology of fungi (e.g., anatomy & physiology, life cycles, ecology, and evolution) while focusing on our local fungi to gain a new perspective and appreciation of their place in the ecosystems around us and our daily lives. Explore this fascinating Kingdom from the comfort of your home (via Zoom) and join us for in-person field trips to apply identification strategies and learn all the fungal hiding places.



Eastern Forest Ecosystems

NATH8215E, 3 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm

Zoom class schedule: September 8-November 10

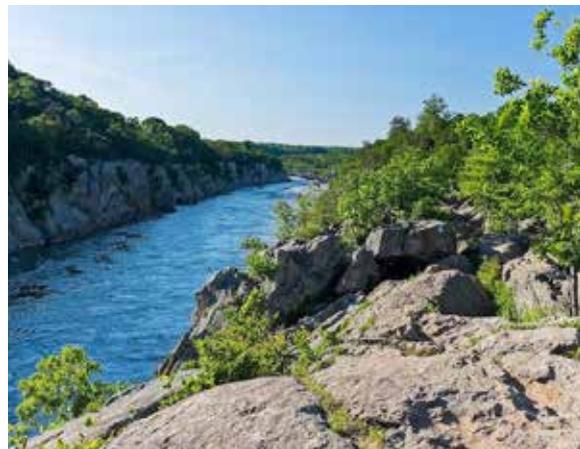
Field trips: Saturday, September 24; Sunday, October 16; and Saturday, October 29, locations TBA

Members \$350, nonmembers \$400

Instructors: Joe Marx and Stephanie Mason

[REGISTER ONLINE](#) or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

The native vegetation in most of the Mid-Atlantic region is temperate deciduous forest. In the lecture portion of this course, we will learn how history, geography, evolution, climate, bedrock and soil determine the nature of our woodlands. We will then look at the various types of organism that populate our forest ecosystems and study how webs of matter and energy bind them together. The final lectures will discuss patterns of short-term and long-term change within the Eastern Forest. Three full-day field trips to Appalachian, Piedmont and Coastal Plain locales will provide hands-on experience with some of the plant and animal species that characterize the major forest communities of our area.



Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

Registration is handled completely online by the Audubon Naturalist Society (not the Graduate School USA) through our adult program registration system. Register for Natural History Field Studies classes at www.anshome.org/nhfs. Questions? Contact pam.oves@anshome.org.

Refund Policy for NHFS classes: ANS will provide you with a refund (minus a \$25 administration fee) if you cancel your enrollment no later than the day following the first class lecture. After this date, no refunds will be provided. In the event of a course cancellation due to insufficient enrollment or other events beyond our control, we will notify you as soon as possible and provide you with a full refund.

Important Registration Dates: If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled. Please see class descriptions for registration cut-off date.



Mushroom Hunting and Mycology Magic

by Serenella Linares



Megan Romberg documents *Lacrimaria* at Woodend



Scutellinia or the eyelash cup fungus



Ductifera Pululahuana

Woodend Nature Sanctuary is now a dynamic site for fungal discovery and community science! Starting in April of this year, ANS began an exciting collaboration with the Mycological Association of Washington, DC (MAWDC) to discover the fungal species that call Woodend Nature Sanctuary home.

Fungal species have a profound impact on our forests. It is through their symbiotic relationships with plants and trees that flowers produce their optimal messages to entice pollinators to come and expand genetic diversity.

The underground networks of fungi make possible the communication of messages between trees up to a mile away. This kind of communication can prepare fellow trees for the attack of imminent herbivores that threaten the integrity of their leaves. (For more info, read *Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures* by Merlin Sheldrake). Mushrooms can also be tree defenders by shielding coniferous roots from the attack of underground creatures. They also nourish plant tissues by providing greater access to water and minerals from the soil.

But for all their marvel, 90% of all estimated fungal species in the world are unknown. In addition to the mystery of their identity, we are also just beginning to learn their full role in supporting ecosystems.

This thirst of knowledge is what fuels the research of the ANS/MAWDC team. Megan Romberg, science advisor for the association and National Mycologist/Plant Pathologist at USDA-APHIS, leads the team which includes Tom McCoy, Annie Weissman, Anil Surathu, Sheldon Bachstein, Isaiah Bednash, and me, Serenella Linares, ANS Adult Education Director.

The team canvases Woodend's trails and nearby areas looking for fungal species to sample. When we find one, team members spring to action taking pictures and documenting the specimen by photographing the fruiting body (the mushroom) as well as the habitat where it was found; that could be on a log, growing from the forest floor, or on grass.

We then upload photos to the Mycology of Woodend iNaturalist project. Part of the collected mushrooms are dried for safe keeping. Other parts are processed to obtain DNA and sequences. Here is the kicker: when the DNA extraction is about to take place, the Woodend Mansion library transforms into a laboratory where we tease out the sample, multiply the gene, and prepare that reaction for sequencing.

So far, we have collected more than 40 samples and the sequences are starting to trickle in. Associated with our champion Atlas Cedar, we have an *Agaricus* species that pops during the summer months. On the newly renovated accessible trail, we have a *Lacrymaria lacrymabunda* spreading through the mulched areas cycling the nutrients from the chips back to the soil and making them available for newly planted species. We have also collected fun species like *Helvella*—fun because of the cloud of spores ejected (and visible!) when you blow on the surface of the cup; *Scutellinia*, or the eyelash cup fungus; and *Ductifera pululahuana*, a white jelly mushroom that decomposes the stumps at the camp fire pit.

And we have so much more to discover. I can't wait to see what new finds students in my upcoming Natural History Field Studies *Introduction to Fungi* course (details on page 23) come up with this fall!

Search team members examine their results in the Woodend Mansion Library.
Photo courtesy of Annie Weissman



Scutellinia habit on a log of the newly restored stream

Conservation Outreach Programs

ANS works to reach families in their communities—near where they live, work, and go to school—and connect them to nearby nature through engaging, hands-on activities and trainings. Check out photos of the experiences and projects we are working on with community leaders, partner organizations, and of course, empowered residents.

¡Sí Se Puede! – This project in the Long Branch neighborhood of Silver Spring is wrapping up. The community members have been working to understand and share information about how to recycle and reduce litter. See the results of the survey in our flyer at right. The families will present the results of the survey and their recommendations to elected and Parks officials later this fall.

Families also took a ride on the Anacostia River and participated in Bilingual Forest bathing sessions this summer (photo below, credit Gabriela Franco).



In year four of our engagement with the Long Branch community, the “Don’t Pollute” project will recruit 18 high schoolers to find solutions to reduce litter around Long Branch stream and park.



Stream Science

ANS water quality monitoring (“WQM”) teams were busy in July! Our dedicated community science volunteers sampled aquatic macroinvertebrates at 26 sites in Montgomery, Prince George’s and Howard Counties in Maryland, and in Rock Creek Park (DC).



For information about the WQM program, including how to become a volunteer, please visit: anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring/.

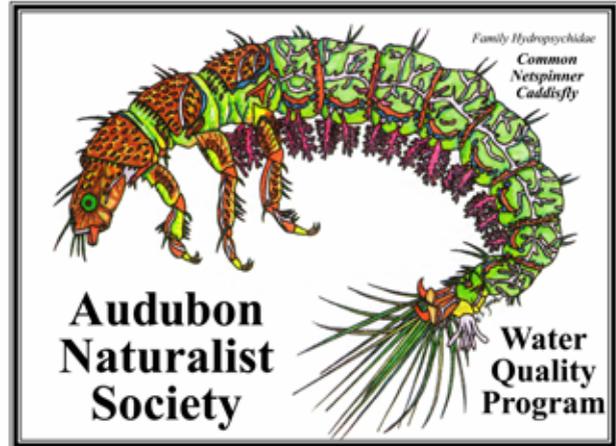
STREAM SCIENCE CLASSES

Don’t forget: our introductory and advanced WQM classes are available online! To register for these classes, scroll to the bottom of the WQM webpage at anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring/ for our listing of classes.

After submitting a volunteer application, new volunteers will be asked to take the **HEALTHY STREAM BIOLOGY** class. There is still time to complete this 1-hour online class and get assigned to a team for October monitoring! Maybe you’ll be able to help a team find the ever-elusive water penny.



The water penny is the larva of a beetle. These well-camouflaged critters cling tightly to submerged rocks where they feed on algae scraped from the surfaces.



If you see someone wearing a shirt with this graphic, ask them about the ANS water quality monitoring program!



Check out more photos and a video of underwater river snorkeling for macroinvertebrates with the Shenandoah Riverkeeper at <https://tinyurl.com/bdhubntdd>.

ANS CREEK CRITTERS® is on Instagram! @anscreekcritters (<https://www.instagram.com/anscreekcritters>).

Check out the photos, videos and brief posts with observations about aquatic macroinvertebrates and identification hints, primarily targeted toward those who are new to stream sampling and others who, like us, find these critters fascinating.

Visit, Like, Comment!



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety

Coming Soon: Nature Play for All at Woodend

With the stream restoration and wheelchair-accessible nature trail complete, we are ready for the next exciting “Nature for All” project at Woodend. In the coming year we will build an accessible Nature Play Space adjacent to the main trailhead of the sanctuary, where accessible bathrooms and a water fountain have already been installed. ANS has carefully designed this project to be accessible, engaging, and enriching for children of all abilities by working with early childhood and special educators, as well as physical and occupational therapists. The Nature Play Space will use natural materials like logs, stone, and sand to offer unique activities that support the cognitive, social, and emotional development of all children. Research consistently shows multiple benefits of nature play for children including encouraging resiliency, focus, self-regulation, creativity, self-confidence, problem-solving, and social functioning.

Feature areas of the Nature Play Space will include an **Engineering Zone** with water, sand and loose parts; a **Woodland Township** with playhouses and fort building materials to inspire social and fantasy play; a log scramble **Bird Nest** for climbing, swinging and balancing; a **Sensory Garden** filled with the colors, smells and textures of native plants; and a 12-ft tall **Wood Thrush** that children can climb on, crawl through and slide down. We will fill the spaces between these features with native shrubs and trees to welcome wildlife to join the fun. The Nature Play Space will help us to build our community of nature stewards starting with the youngest naturalists. We hope it will encourage children and families to pursue a lifetime of nature learning opportunities.

Please enjoy these design renderings of what some of the main play space features will look like when completed.



Woodland Township



Wood Thrush



Engineering Zone



Bird Nest

You can help inspire children of all abilities to appreciate and explore the outdoors!

Nature Play Space
at Woodend Nature Sanctuary

Learn more at anshome.org/playspace

Nature Travel



ANS's Nature Travel program offers our members and friends opportunities to search for wildlife and explore the wonders of nature at places outside the mid-Atlantic region. Group size is typically limited to 15 people, and many trips fill early. Call Carol Hayes at the ANS travel desk at 301-652-9188 x10 or email carol.hayes@anshome.org for complete itineraries and registration information or visit [ANShome.org/nature-travel](https://anshome.org/nature-travel).

South Texas: Subtropical Habitats and Speciality Birds

November 9-17, 2022

Leaders: Paul Pisano and Len Bisson

This trip is full but email carol.hayes@anshome.org to be added to the waitlist.

Costa Rica: A Trove of Tropical Birds—and Much More

February 1-13, 2023

Optional extension to February 16

Leaders: Stephanie Mason & Carlos “Charlie” Gomez

This will be our Senior Naturalist's 23rd year as an ANS leader to this small, tropical wonderland with amazing plant and animal diversity. Costa Rica's colorful birds, from the tiny Scintillant Hummingbird to the large, comical Jabiru, will turn any nature enthusiast into a bird lover. Our basic trip will visit moist Caribbean lowlands, Caribbean slope, the Cano Negro wetlands in the north, and lush cloud forest habitat. Our optional extension moves to high elevations, where tropical oaks grow tall and the dazzling Resplendent Quetzal nests. Email carol.hayes@anshome.org to receive a detailed itinerary and registration information packet as soon as it becomes available. Registration and trip deposits will not be accepted in advance of the packet's release.

Minnesota Winter Quest

Tentative: February, 2023

Leader: Paul Pisano

Join us as we explore the iconic forests, bogs, and Lake Superior shoreline of northern Minnesota to search for birds and other animals that make this wonderland their winter home. We'll be based in Duluth and travel through rich and varied habitats, scanning the trees and brush for such amazing birds as Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, and Snowy Owl. While the total trip list will fall well short of 50 species, the birds we expect to see will include many that we don't encounter in the mid-Atlantic region. It will be cold and brisk, so pack your layers and come along on this winter adventure. Email carol.hayes@anshome.org to receive further information when available.

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund 2022 Grantees

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund is ANS's international outreach program, providing micro-grants for local conservation and education projects in developing countries. Dedicated conservationists continue their work to benefit local communities and biodiversity while navigating a variety of global challenges to achieve their goals. The Crowder-Messersmith Committee awarded their 2022 grants to the following 10 groups:

- In **Kenya** protecting forest resources through recruitment of bird guide trainees;
- Conserving endangered populations of mountain tapirs through engagement with indigenous populations in **Colombia**;
- Involving local Baka pygmy populations to protect their forest communities in **Cameroon**;
- In **Ethiopia**, connecting future generations and stakeholders in Black Crowned Crane conservation;
- In **Ghana**, engaging local people to safeguard the critically endangered Home's Hinge-back tortoise and their priority habitats;
- Protecting endangered species of pangolins through conservation sensitization and alternative income sources in **Benin**;
- In **Cape Verde**, an ongoing project will expand the involvement of children and young people in the protection of sea turtle habitat to developing a bird monitoring program;
- A project to design localized education materials on island biodiversity in remote islands in the northern **Philippines**;
- In **India**, engaging young people in the protection of the endangered Golden Mahseer fish.

For more information on the Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund please see our web page at <https://anshome.org/crowder-messersmith-fund>.



Removing non-native plant species is a major component of our continuing restoration work at Woodend Nature Sanctuary. ANS volunteers continue to play a vital role in that effort.

Volunteers Mara McCall, Liz Wagner, and Michael Lautenberger recently joined ANS Garden Programs Manager Alice Sturm and Restoration Manager Bradley Simpson at Woodend's "Big Meadow" to remove invasive bindweed, porcelain berry, Japanese honeysuckle, and Japanese stiltgrass from the sanctuary's largest meadow. Invasive plants reduce wildlife habitat and disrupt important ecosystem functions. Clearing them is essential to make room for the seeding of native meadow wildflowers and plugs of native grasses. This work is part of a meadow management strategy to tidy the edges of the meadow to encourage the spread of the planted natives into the interior of the meadow.

"It's time-consuming work that could not be done as efficiently without our dedicated volunteers," Bradley says. "With a few hours' effort, we can completely change non-native plant abundance of an area to help restore native species abundance."

This is just one of many areas in which volunteers help ANS succeed in its mission work. If you would like to volunteer your time and talent at ANS, please email Volunteer Coordinator Peihan Orestes at peihan.orestes@anshome.org.



Photos by Ben Israel

Staff Updates



Welcome Andrea!



Andrea McDougall joined the ANS staff as a preschool teacher for our Saplings class for 3-4 year olds. She has worked with children for over 20 years, including raising two daughters who are now 20 and 22. Andrea was born and raised in Canada, moved to the US in 1998, and currently lives in Takoma Park with her wife and dog.

Welcome Rose!



Rose Brusaferrro, PhD, joined the ANS staff as Acting Preschool Director. She has been studying and teaching environmental education for over a decade, including completing a doctorate in sustainability education. Based in Baltimore, she loves going on outdoor adventures with her three dachshunds.

Congrats Brenna!



Brenna Houck joined the regular ANS staff as Assistant Camp Manager/Youth Programs Naturalist, after previously working with us in seasonal roles and as an environmental education intern. Brenna graduated from James Madison University with degrees in Economics

and Geography, with concentrations in Environmental Science. In addition to spending time outdoors, Brenna loves exploring new places, eating good food, and relaxing with a book and her two cats.

Welcome Jeff!



Jeff Chandler joined the ANS staff as GreenKids Director. He recently moved back to DC with his wife and new baby from the Seattle area where

he completed a Master's of Education and worked for School's Out Washington, supporting the development of social and emotional learning and culturally responsive programs. Prior to his time on the west coast, he worked in DC for the National Environmental Education Foundation as an Education Program Officer.

Welcome Melanie!



Melanie Oppenheimer joined the ANS staff as a preschool teacher for our Oaks class for 4-5 year olds. Over the last six years, Melanie has taught kindergarten, first grade and preschool children in private and public school settings. Born and raised in Atlanta, Melanie currently lives with her husband and two dogs in Rockville.

Staff Updates



Farewell Diane!



Diane Lill has been a valued member of our Environmental Education Department for 15 years since she joined us as a GreenKids naturalist in 2007. Diane

has led our GreenKids program since 2008 and served as Director of the Environmental Education Department from 2015-2020.

In her time at ANS, Diane connected tens of thousands of schoolchildren to nature, built strong relationships with local school systems to foster environmental literacy and expanded our work throughout the region, coached hundreds of teachers in leading green school efforts, and helped raise millions of dollars for this work. Diane created numerous signature programs for ANS, from Salad Science to Naturalist Hour. She sends her thanks and well wishes to all our members and partners in education, and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Welcome Michelle!



Michelle Gregonis joined ANS as a Senior Accountant in July. She enjoys exploring all the parks that the DMW area offers. She is excited to help ANS in its mission to make nature more accessible for all residents of the area. Her favorite pastimes

are traveling locally and internationally, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Welcome Laura!



Laura Dennison joined the restoration department as a Chesapeake Conservation Corps Member in August. She is from Easton, MD and graduated from

St. Mary's College of Maryland in 2021 majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Art. Her hobbies include most outdoor activities including sailing, hiking, and swimming. She also loves to travel and, when not outside, she enjoys doing art, specifically painting.

Farewell Gus and Jenea!



Thank you to 2022 Conservation summer interns **Gus Demerath** (Williams College) and **Jenea Rutty** (Howard University). We were honored to have them work with us and research forest conservation, climate action, and stream restoration. These smart students are going places, and we wish them all the best!



Restoration

A Sensational Summer along Woodend's Restored Stream and Trail

The first summer following our major stream and trail restoration project has been full of bountiful blooms, delicious fruits, and numerous wildlife sightings! Butterfly milkweed, coreopsis, mountain mint, obedient plant, black-eyed Susan, American water lily, monkey flower, woodland sunflower, partridge pea, and Maryland senna are just some of wildflowers enjoyed by visitors this summer. Blueberries and serviceberry fruits fed wildlife and were enjoyed by staff and campers with paw paws on the menu for fall. A plethora of young salamanders were spotted in the pond, as well as in many of the other pools created by the stream restoration. Dragonflies whizzed by all summer and some summer campers even experienced a mass larval emergence at the pond. During explorations of the step pools with campers, aquatic macroinvertebrates and amphibians were found in every single water-holding pool. If there was water, there were critters! After the long months of the restoration project, it is a joy to witness the flowers blooming, insects buzzing, and frogs singing, while knowing that our efforts are also helping support the life of the Chesapeake Bay downstream.

We hope you will come and see the beauty of Woodend for yourself! The sanctuary is open from dawn to dusk every day. If you would like to join a guided tour, please visit <https://anshome.org/woodend-tours>. Guided walks around Woodend will run through November and then offered again in spring. Interested in a private tour? Contact Restoration Manager, Bradley Simpson, at bradley.simpson@anshome.org for more information.



A spicebush swallowtail enjoying the nectar of an obedient plant. Photo by Bradley Simpson.



A juvenile salamander found in a step-pool downstream of the pond. Photo by Bradley Simpson.



American white water lilies blooming in the pond. Photo by Alison Pearce.



Native Plant Gardening in Containers

Saturday, September 24 (10 am-12 pm)

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Whether you are looking to attract pollinators to your apartment balcony, or you are tired of replacing annuals in your pots every season, join us for native plant gardening in containers! We'll discuss recommended species, how to design an attractive combination, and do a hands-on demonstration. Register at www.anshome.org/nature-classes.

Square Foot Habitat Gardening

Sunday, October 9 (10 am-12 pm)

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Learn how to make the most of every square foot in your garden for wildlife benefit. Habitat is a precious commodity in our urban region, especially for wildlife stressed by climate change. But you can make a difference, even in a small space by packing it with food, shelter, water and nesting opportunities. Register at www.anshome.org/nature-classes.

Woodend Tours

We hope to see you on a Woodend Tour this fall! These walks are led by ANS staff and volunteers. For more information and to register, please visit <https://anshome.org/woodend-tours>.

Family Walks at Woodend (September 3, October 1, November 5).

Saturday Morning Bird Walks (September 10, October 8, November 12)

Notable Trees of Woodend (September 16, October 22, November 11)

Native Plant Gardens of Woodend (September 10, October 14)

Natural Habitats of Woodend (September 23, October 28, November 18)

Native Plant Sale & Garden Program Open House

Sunday, October 2 (9 am-12 pm)

Rain Date: Sunday, October 23 (9 am-12 pm)

There will be tours of the various garden areas given by some of our Master Gardener volunteers, along with native perennials and grasses for sale. Come to learn more about our garden volunteer programs, native plant gardening in general, and the Montgomery County Master Gardener Program.

Tours meet by the gazebo; plant sale held in the tent by the learning garden.



ANS Garden Consultations

Make the most of the spring gardening season with an on-site consultation with ANS Garden Programs Manager Alice Sturm.

- Defining sunny, shady, dry and wet areas in your garden
- Identifying your existing plants and recommending additions
- A written report of next steps to improve habitat or start a food garden
- A map of your property showing garden conditions and recommendations

Schedule Your Yard/Garden Consultation for \$125 at anshome.org/native-plant-gardening.

42nd Bloomin' Birdathon

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Bloomin' Birdathon another great success! Once again, ANS members and supporters rose, or rather soared, to the occasion. As a result, we were able to raise over \$80,000 for our 42nd Bloomin' Birdathon! These funds are vitally needed to support our environmental education and conservation programs that serve so many children and adults across the Washington, DC region each year.

Our special thanks go to this year's top 5 Bloomin' Birdathon fundraisers:

- Stephanie Mason & Pam Oves: \$18,300
- Team Cottingham: \$7,700
- The ANS Board: \$6,300
- David Blockstein & Debra Prybyla: \$5,800
- Marcia & Kent Minichiello: \$3,200

Our heartfelt thanks also go to all other Bloomin' Birdathon participants and everyone who supported our valiant counters.

And, thank you to our generous Birdathon Sponsors! Your support also makes a huge difference to our work. We could not do it without you!



THANK YOU to our 2022
Bloomin' Birdathon
SPONSORS

Linda Lear & John Nickum

Eagle Sponsors



Owl Sponsor



Owl Sponsor



Hawk Sponsor

Special Events

Woodend After Dark returns!

On June 2, after a two-year hiatus due to Covid, our popular Woodend After Dark enjoyed a triumphant return! Attendees enjoyed signature cocktails, a buffet dinner, live music, and wonderful company—including the opportunity to pose with Luna the owl.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, donated, and supported this year's event. Together, we raised nearly \$30,000 for ANS programs.



THANK YOU
Woodend After Dark
sponsors and supporters:

MULLINS P.C.
NORTHERN TRUST
LA-PRIMA CATERING
OWL MOON
Spilled Milk
B. LIN CATERING
Photographer Dan Weil
Harpist James Dronenburg



Virginia dayflower blossom



Naturalist Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Bonnie VanDorn

Auction Adventure: Theodore Roosevelt Island Walk

Congratulations to Nenie Bartman for being the highest bidder for a fun auction item from this year's Woodend After Dark event. The item, a Theodore Roosevelt Island Walk, was donated by Naturalist Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*, who led the experience. Nenie's guests on the walk explored more than 1.5 miles of trails along the island's scenic shoreline and upland woods. Along the way, they stopped to learn about wildflowers and trees and to view birds and other wildlife.

CALL FOR AUCTION ITEMS

Please support our Holiday Party silent auction
Donated items and services are tax-deductible and help ANS expand environmental education opportunities for all ages.

Popular: **Nature experiences and travel**; home rentals; **fine dining**; nature-themed handicraft; **gardening consults and tours**; **vineyard certificates**; **new outdoor equipment and gear**; and more!

The deadline for submissions is November 4.
Contact Corinna Fisk, Development Director at (301) 652-9188 x31 or corinna.fisk@anshome.org



Afternoon dedication of a conservation landscape at St Philip's Episcopal Church in Annapolis on June 26. ANS mentored their volunteer Ann O'Malley, who wrote the CBT grant to get funding for plants so church and community volunteers could finish this project. It looks amazing! The rector on the left is Father Randy Callender.



Join the Legacy Society

You can join ANS's Legacy Society by including ANS in your estate plans.

This year, as ANS celebrates 125 years of connecting DC area residents to nature, we ask you to consider sustaining your support long into the future. Your bequest to ANS will help serve the growing, rich diversity of this region, combat climate change, protect clean water, preserve our precious green spaces, and nurture the next generation of environmental leaders. For more information contact Corinna Fisk at 301-652-9188 x31 or corinna.fisk@anshome.org.

ANS Garden Consultations

Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion



Weddings

Corporate Events

Milestones



Climate-controlled tent included
woodendsanctuary.org

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS May-July 2022

IN HONOR OF:

William Adams

Joy & Doug Bloomfield; Woody & Rae Dubois

George Peterson

Patricia Greene

Richard Pollen

Daniel Rosenblum

IN MEMORY OF:

Cris Fleming

Tolulope Adetayo; Mary Elizabeth Conway; Marjorie Pomeroy Kelly; Kathy Rushing; Mary Gay Sprague

Stephen Jones

Maria Bissell; Sheila Cochran; Anne & Dru Crawley; Sherrill Edwards; Bruce Jones; Evelyn Jones; Ginger McLaughlin; Kathryn Nelson; Richard Stinson; Gloria White

Scott Fosler

Leslie Catherwood; The Coe Family; Ryan Davies; Bridget Hartman; Julia & Alfred Wurglitz

Audrey Katz

Kathleen Bailey; Deborah & Bruce Broder; Kathleen Conley; Jeffrey Glaser; Deborah Grenier; Jeff Howe; Randy Kaplan; Suzanne Krauth; Sandy Langenfelder; Lisa Miller; Cynthia Mumford; Dave Nicoteri; Rick & Mary Radman; Gloria Sherman; Judith Timken; Tom & Lori Uglietta; Chuck & Nancy Weser; Karol Wyckoff

Pearl Marks

Robert Mecklenburg

Helen Patton

Mary Radman

Perry Plumart

Mary Andrews; Martha Berry; David Blume; James Blume; Jean Blume; Gerald & Rochelle Elliot; Barbara & Tim Johnson; Suedeen Kelly; Carmelle Malkovich; Anita Manning; Lisa Potetz; Lewis Roth; RS Schmieding; Andrea Spring; Deborah Stark; Stinson LLP; Ann Vaughan; Stephen Vetzner

Leeward Donald Tryson

Karen Hitchcock

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Education programs are held at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society's 40-acre Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, unless otherwise noted. All education programs except Nature Travel have online registration. You will be notified immediately if the program is full; otherwise, confirmation letters will be emailed 1-2 weeks before the scheduled program.

Lectures are held at our Woodend Sanctuary, and field trip transportation is by private vehicle or carpool unless otherwise noted. Most programs are limited to 16 participants and also have a minimum enrollment, so early registration is important to ensure that programs run. Unless otherwise noted, weekend adult foray program fees do not include meals or lodging.

Because our programs rely on registration fees for funding, we have adopted this policy:

- Cancellations must be made at least six working days before the beginning of the program to be eligible for a credit to your account, less a \$5 administrative fee.
- If an adult foray is cancelled by ANS due to low enrollment, you will receive a full refund. If a weather-related concern or another issue outside of ANS's control forces a cancellation, you will receive a full credit to your account.
- Nature travel programs have different cancellation policies, explained on the information sheet sent on request.

ANS is committed to addressing problems when they occur. Program participants are encouraged to bring problems or concerns of any kind directly to the staff member in charge of the program. Staff members will try to resolve the problem immediately or as soon as reasonably possible. If staff is unable to do so, they are expected to bring the problem to the attention of their immediate supervisor or member of the Senior Management Team, who will take responsibility for seeking a resolution. Program participants are welcome to bring unresolved problems or concerns to the attention of the Executive Director. The Executive Director's decision on resolution of the problem is final.

Do you want to read your Naturalist Quarterly online and reduce paper use and printing costs? If so, email membership@anshome.org and ask to receive the Naturalist Quarterly by email.

ANS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 20, 6-9 pm

Woodend Sanctuary

Guest Speaker: Rodney Stotts, Falconer

Calling all ANS members and supporters! Be sure to join us for the 2022 Annual Meeting to celebrate the next chapter for our organization and the impact we can have as stewards of our region's outdoors, if we move forward together.

The evening event will include recognition of NHFS graduates and election of members to the ANS Board. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Please RSVP to this free event by registering online at <https://give.classy.org/annualmeeting2022> by Monday, October 17. *If we are unable to meet in person because of COVID, we will hold the meeting entirely virtually.*

BOARD ELECTIONS:

ANS members will vote on candidates for the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. An official notice including profiles of the Board candidates nominated by the Governance Committee will be posted at anshome.org/board after October 1.



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