

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Autumn 2021

AN\$HOME.ORG

Join us for the
Nature for All Grand
Opening on October 6!

See page 31 for details.



Nature for All is Here!

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

GROUNDS 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+

NATURALIST QUARTERLY is published four times a year by the Audubon Naturalist Society, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Photos, art work, and articles may not be reprinted without permission from the editor. Opinions offered do not necessarily reflect official ANS policy. Advertised products or services do not carry the endorsement of ANS.

ISSN 0888-6555

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Naturalist Quarterly

ANShome.org Autumn 2021

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COVER Indigo bunting by Jane Gamble

From the Director

Embracing Change

"Never a day passes but that I do myself the honor to commune with some of nature's varied forms."

- George Washington Carver

Carver's words are from long ago, but to me, they are the perfect description of what binds our present-day ANS community together. Each of us finds happiness and comfort in communing with nature and its endless, delightful forms. Our deep and shared connection with nature has helped us weather the travails of the pandemic and embrace the changes arriving in its wake. As lovers of nature, we can't help but want to share the gift of the natural world with others. That is why I am so excited to share the stories in this issue of the *Naturalist Quarterly* with you.

ANS is leading the way with our mission work to create open and welcoming spaces for all people in the DC metro region to connect with nature. When next you visit Woodend, you'll be dazzled by our beautiful, wheelchair accessible nature trail. This new trail has already greeted seniors using mobility assistance devices, bringing them deep into the forest and enabling them to enjoy our stream, pond and meadow habitats. This fall, we will host forest bathing and nature healing classes for women veterans. And I cannot wait for students using wheelchairs, walkers and crutches to take a trip to our restored pond. For the first time ever, kids with mobility aids will be able to join their classmates to plunk their nets into the pond, dipping for tadpoles and diving beetles. This new accessibility brings me joy! And I invite you to join me for a joyful Grand Opening of our Nature Trail and Stream Restoration on Wednesday, October 6 from 10 am-5 pm.

As you read this issue's stories, you'll be inspired by the many ways people from around the region are benefiting from the transformation of Woodend. I know you'll be able to envision the future with me – a future defined by the ANS vision of *creating a larger, more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it*. Our work to preserve Woodend meadows is paying off. They now provide homes for nesting bluebirds, chickadees, house wrens and scores of butterflies and bees. Today, our restored stream and pond host tadpoles, salamanders, dragonflies, water boatmen and other aquatic insects. Our forest has gained biodiversity with restoration plantings that will support species for decades to come - ranging from box turtles to rosy maple moths to red foxes plus a special species I truly hope to see – a pair of nesting wood thrushes.

And the Nature for All projects are fulfilling their role as living classrooms and demonstration sites. This fall, we are hosting Spanish-language workshops for local landscapers to inspire them to include native plants in their work. We have invited the Choose Clean Water Coalition, representing more than 250 environmental groups in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, to tour Woodend and visit our stream restoration and state-of-the-art stormwater management projects.

But our work doesn't stop at the boundaries of Woodend. We are using Woodend as a springboard to serve the whole region, including outreach projects to new communities in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. GreenKids is ramping up our partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools, preparing to launch Green Teams at elementary schools across the county. We are hosting dual-language family events at the Long Branch stream in Montgomery County, stream clean up



and learning days at Oxon Run in DC's Ward 8, and field trips and tree plantings for traditionally underserved communities along the Route One corridor in Fairfax, Virginia.

And we are thinking ahead to all the ways that ANS can amplify its work, making the DC metro region a shining example of what Nature for All truly means. We are embracing the changes that new audiences, new technology platforms and new advocacy priorities bring to the organization and its dedicated members, allies and partners. Please join us at the Annual Meeting on October 21 to hear more about the ANS Board of Directors' consideration of a new name (see pg 30) and to learn more about next steps in Nature for All – our gorgeous Nature Play Space! Thank you for your membership, support and participation in the mission work of ANS. Please join me in embracing change and always making time to commune with nature!

LETTERS

ANS Instills a Lifetime of Love for Nature

I really think ANS gets the credit for my career decision. I didn't start out in college knowing what I wanted to study. I thought I would become an elementary school teacher because my mom was one. When I was getting ready to declare my major, I needed to write an essay about why I wanted to be an elementary school teacher. But I couldn't write it and almost burst into tears because I realized being a teacher wasn't what I really wanted to do. I'd been in college for a few years and still didn't know what to study. So I took a semester off and got a government contractor position in order to spend some time doing what I liked to do. I was just planning to see what happened.

I decided to go on bird walks. My father was a big proponent of ANS and all things nature. My dad made nature part of my background experience as a child, from strawberry picking to nature walks to bird watching. Naturalist Dr. Joan Criswell took us on a winter bird walk at the C&O canal. It was a wonderful walk. I felt so at home. It was where I wanted to be and with the kind of people I wanted to be with.

I kept birding after the walk officially ended and I spotted a barred owl on a limb. I stayed and watched that owl for 45 minutes. It was the first owl I'd ever seen in the wild. I communed with the owl, and a lot of thoughts and feelings went through me, and I realized that I wanted to understand everything that happened in the woods. I was suddenly determined to study biology at UMD, because I wanted to know everything about the natural world. And I couldn't wait for the new semester to start. I put as many courses together that had field experiences included. I sat in the front row of every class and I was a sponge who was so hungry to understand the natural world. I'm grateful to ANS and all the people who taught me to love nature and understand the science of it.

- Julie Modlin

Editor's note: Julie went on to work with the National Park Service in Rock Creek. After a stint as a scientist for the FDA, she studied botany in graduate school, then worked and finished her career at Maryland's DNR. We thank Julie for sharing her story and thank our ANS leaders, past and present, for changing lives by connecting people with nature.



A senior from the Long Branch Senior Center takes a stroll with an aide on our new accessible trail. Photo by Ben Israel.

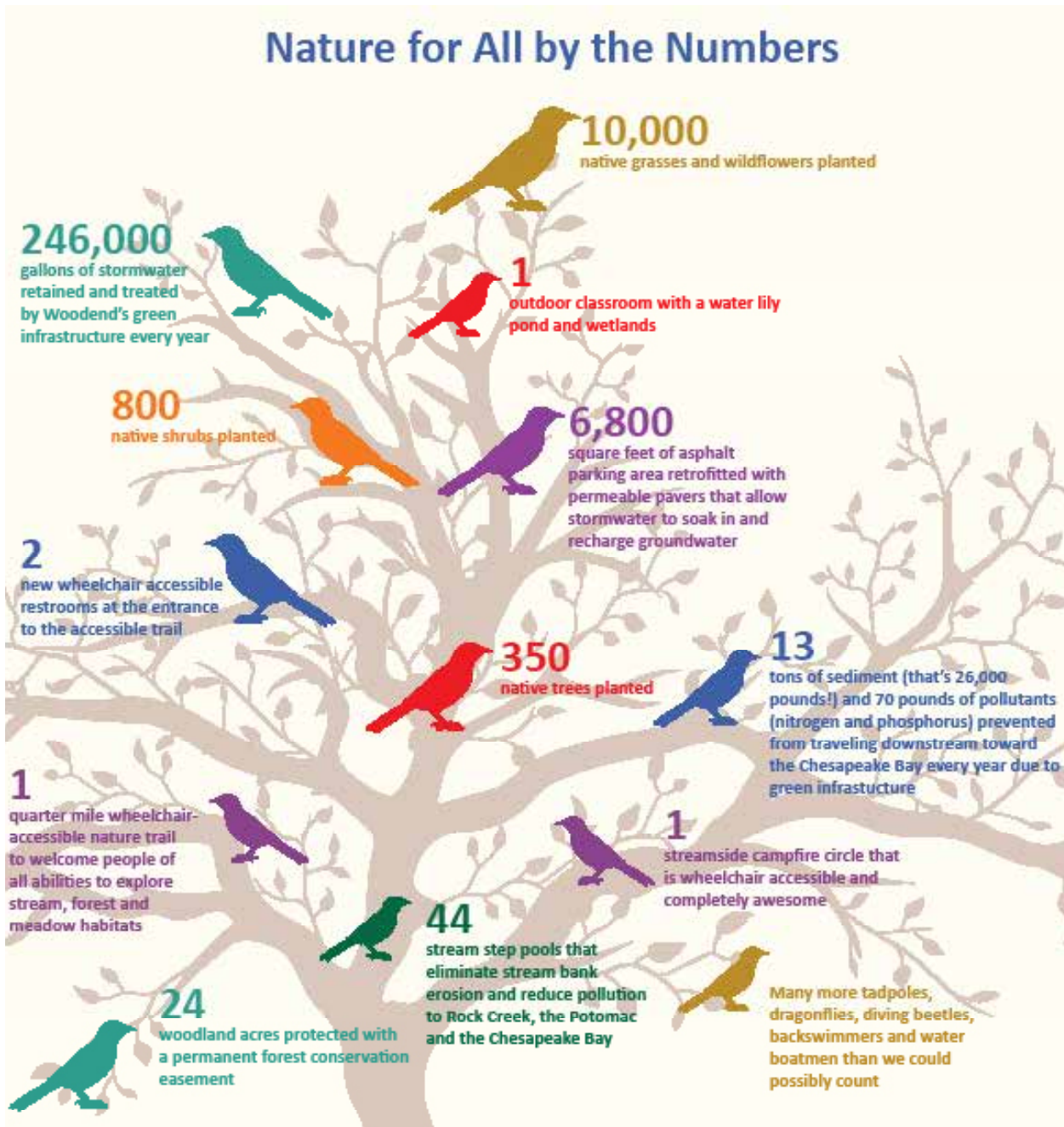


Indigo buntings have been visiting the forest edge and open meadow habitats at Woodend during the breeding season for many years. A couple of years ago, volunteers working to remove invasives from the restored meadow discovered an Indigo bunting nest. Indigo buntings will soon head south to spend the winter in tropical regions, including Costa Rica, where ANS travelers enjoy meeting up with them again. Photo by Ben Israel.

Nature for All is Here!

by Alison Pearce, Restoration and Deputy Director

It's finally happening! The Nature for All projects that we've been dreaming about for years have finally come to life. And with them, the habitats and visitor experience at Woodend have been utterly transformed. Here's what we've achieved "by the numbers":



Of course, numbers are only part of this great story. We hope you will visit soon to experience more than even words and numbers can capture. Woodend is always FREE and open to the public from dawn to dusk. Join us on October 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to celebrate the Grand Opening of Woodend's restored habitats and accessible trail with FREE tours and special giveaways. Go to www.anshome.org/grand-opening for more details. Also, check out page 34 for ways to get more out of a visit to Woodend with new tours and programs that showcase the Nature for All projects.

Excitement about the Restored Woodend Sanctuary is Overflowing!

Achieving the transformation of Woodend Nature Sanctuary involved many partners who brought both funding and expertise to the projects. Realizing the outreach potential of the projects will also require many partnerships, including the support and enthusiasm of ANS members. Here are a few reactions to the completed Nature for All projects from our community of partners and supporters.



Adam Ortiz, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

It is important to recognize the work of long-term partners like the Audubon Naturalist Society for promoting the benefits of stormwater innovations such as green infrastructure and stream restoration in Montgomery County. I have found ANS to be a community leader that walks the walk; not just talks the talk. The innovative, yet real-life stormwater solutions they have made on their own property prove they are exceptional stewards of our land and resources and exemplify what we can do together to protect the health of our streams and wildlife. Without organizations like ANS that lead by example, our department would not be able to accomplish our mission of enhancing the quality of life in our community by protecting and improving Montgomery County's air, water, and land in a sustainable, innovative, inclusive, and industry-leading way. Woodend Nature Sanctuary is a case study in what can be achieved with a vision, strong leadership and teamwork.



Carrie Decker, Habitat Restoration Manager with Maryland Department of Natural Resources

The Woodend site is special because not only was the stream in poor condition and in need of floodplain connectivity and sediment and nutrient reductions, but it is also a public space for wildlife and access. Ensuring that both the upland landscape has new and efficient stormwater management, and that we are treating that water before it enters our rivers and bay is one of the most important things we can do in urban and suburban areas. Habitat restoration goes hand-in-hand with water quality restoration—if there are healthy and diverse native tree and plant population in a natural system, then our soil health and wildlife and aquatic health will follow. All of those components improve our overall quality of life. Ensuring that communities have access to beautiful spaces like Woodend is vital.



Karen Wilhelm, ANS member and Volunteer

“Amazing” is the word that first came to my mind as I walked with my rollator on the newly accessible path that winds through the lovely Woodend woods. I have been an ANS volunteer and member for about 10 years. When I first came to Woodend, I could walk on the woods path with only minimal difficulty. However, the Post-Polio Syndrome that affects my legs worsened over the years to the point where I was unable to negotiate the uneven surface of the woods trail. However, now that the woods walkway has been resurfaced for accessibility, I can finally enjoy the walk. The placement of numerous benches along the trail makes it possible to rest my legs during a walk. Thank you, ANS, for opening the Woodend trail to me and other people with difficulty walking!



Adria Zeldin, Certified Forest Bathing Leader

The new accessible trail makes it possible for individuals with disabilities and mobility issues to experience more of what Woodend has to offer. I am very excited to introduce veterans and others to the wonders of Forest Bathing using these new gathering areas and accessible trails.

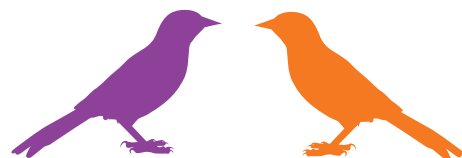
Shahin Sebastian, Program Manager, Patient Navigator Program, Asian American Health Initiative, DHHS Montgomery County MD

We had a lovely and leisurely walk at Woodend today. The new accessible trail of permeable bonded gravel made walking through green spaces charmingly easy. The row of small catchment pools along the creek bed had collected water from yesterday's storm. I could imagine the curving overlook deck area functioning as a stage for a small concert or a storytelling session. As we crossed the bridge over the stream, the water below was teeming with tadpoles and diving beetles as dragonflies skimmed its surface. Looking up, we spotted a red shouldered hawk gliding in the warm afternoon air. Further along the path at a new campfire circle, one could imagine the magic created when humans bond over a warm crackling fire, as the leaves of native trees whisper high up in the air. Truly, one can rejuvenate oneself and the spirit, by spending time at this beautiful green space, in the middle of a bustling city.



Bill McGrath, Supervisor, Physical Disabilities, Montgomery County Public Schools, Office of Teaching, Learning and Schools – Special Education

Our students have greatly benefited from the environmental education programs that ANS naturalists provide. The development of the Nature for All trail at Woodend Sanctuary is an exciting opportunity to expand those inclusive opportunities for more children with a range of needs and abilities, both through school programming and with their families outside of the school day. Since early in the design process for the nature trail, specialists in our district have worked with the ANS design team to match elements of the trail to the full range of unique strengths, needs and interests of the students we serve. I am very excited about the level of commitment and skill ANS is applying to ensure access and opportunities to the trail and educational programming for all of our students. The trail will be a unique and inclusive resource for all children and families in Montgomery County for decades to come.



Conservation



Policy and Advocacy News

Water spills onto Hoopers Island Road, in Hoopersville, Md. during high tide. The Eastern Shore of Maryland has a rate of sea level rise that is twice the global average. Photo credit: Greg Kahn / Getty Images Climate Visuals Grant recipient

Regional/National

It Will Take All of Us to Save All We Can: In an August of floods and fires around the world, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change began releasing its 6th assessment report. It says that we now have an incredibly narrow window to keep the climate from heating more than 1.5°C, and that it will take all of us, and flat-out action to get off of fossil fuels, very fast. Thinking about all that is and will be lost in our hot and scary world may bring grief, despair, and anger. In our grief, though, we have an opportunity to think about all we can save – all the animals, plants, places, and humans that we must work our tails off to bring through this crisis as whole as possible. And every action to reduce emissions matters – because every tenth of a degree of warming is worse than the one before. There is nothing too small or too large to do, especially if we do them together. Visit anshome.org/climate for our list of actions you can do, and make sure you raise your voice – **TAKE ACTION** locally and nationally to hold our decision-makers accountable to our present and our future.

Maryland

Thank you for helping us fight the Beltway Expansion! Together we sent over 250 letters to the MD Board of Public Works (BPW) ahead of their August 11th meeting! Unfortunately, the BPW approved the Beltway/I-270 highway expansion pre-development contract with Transurban even before having the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which is set to be issued next year. Check out our [ANS Blog](#) for resources and ways to get involved—we're not done fighting this bad idea!

Interested in getting involved or learning more?

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

Virginia

Drinking Water Protections Weakened in Fairfax County: On June 22, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 7-2 in favor of expanding by-right agritourism development in the county's low density and agricultural areas, which have long been restricted from development to protect the Occoquan Reservoir. This reservoir provides drinking water for the County and is one of the back-up supplies for the DC region, but it is now at greater risk for increased pollution and expanded future development. Landowners may now add more pavement and host large-scale events (including weddings and parties) as "agritourism," which will burden septic systems, generate more car traffic, and require more parking. Learn more and write to your Supervisor on the [ANS Blog](#).

Washington, DC

DC Budget Contains Wins for Equity & Environment but Also a Serious Loss: In August, the DC Council passed an FY22 budget supported by millions of federal dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act, which helped fund a substantial and very needed increase in the Department of Energy and Environment's budget. The Council also funded the Vision Zero Omnibus Amendment Act, dedicated \$1.4 million in new funding for lead pipe remediation, \$377,000 to enhance electric vehicle charging facilities, and \$8 million towards a goal of 80% waste diversion by 2032. Unfortunately, however, at the last minute, Chair Mendelson "swept" \$22 million in funds destined for the District's Solar for All, Building Energy Performance Standards, and Weatherization initiatives over the next three years to other priorities. All three are a major blow to the District's plans to fight the climate crisis, because the buildings sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in DC. At press time, ANS is exploring strategies with our partners about how to respond. Check out the [ANS Blog](#) for our testimony to the DC council during agency oversight hearings and on the budget this spring and summer.

Conservation



Community Outreach Programs

ANS is excited to share our outreach programs that reach community members throughout the DC region, particularly communities of color and those with historically less access to nature. ANS partners with local community-serving organizations and seeks to grow a network of empowered environmental leaders, who feel more connected to their local natural spaces and are gaining the skillsets and confidence to represent their community priorities to decision-makers.

Checking out what lives in Long Branch. Photo by Denisse Guitarra



¡Si Se Puede! (Long Branch, Silver Spring, MD)

This program was initiated in 2019 in partnership with local community-building organization CHEER, and is currently in phases 3 and 4, where families will define an issue and conduct research on projects of their own choosing related to improving the health of their local

stream valley park. If you are English/Spanish bilingual and would like to volunteer at our next outreach event on September 25, contact denisse.guitarra@anshome.org. Check out our [ANS Blog](#) to learn more about this project.

Water Keepers of Little Hunting Creek (Alexandria area of Fairfax County, VA)

This program just kicked off this year, building on years of engagement with communities and social service agencies along the Route 1 corridor. Funded by the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia in partnership with United Communities, we have hosted 3 activities in the Creekside and Colchester affordable-housing communities just north of Route 1, including a guided nature walk in Huntley Meadows Park. In the fall, we will be working with Casey Trees to conduct a neighborhood-wide tree planting and then we will help host a festival day on October 16—volunteers needed! Learn more on the [ANS Blog](#) and contact renee.grebe@anshome.org.

Ward 8 Water Watchers (Oxon Run Park, Washington, DC)

W8WW is wrapping up its first year in partnership with The Green Scheme, hosted at the soon-to-be home of The Well, an urban farm run by DC Greens within Oxon Run Park. This year we have hosted 6 events and grown a corps of “Water Watchers” – adults, youth, and families who feel connected in a new way to the stream they have crossed over and played besides their whole lives. Check out great photos on the [ANS Blog](#).

Workshops

Environmental & Conservation Advocacy 101

Wednesday, November 3, 1-3:30 pm

Instructor: Eliza Cava (via Zoom)

ANS members \$20; nonmembers \$30

What's your environmental issue? Widening the Beltway? Lead in school water pipes? Threats to a park? Contributing to the discussion on new development coming to your neighborhood? Fighting climate change at the local level? Our workshop will cover the following key introductory skills: identifying issues and solutions; researching and communicating ideas; developing an action plan; talking to decision-makers; and building coalitions to broaden support. Register at anshome.org/training.



Conservation Cafés

Join us for inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Your \$10-15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! See detailed descriptions and register at anshome.org/conservation-cafe.

This fall, Conservation Café will stay quiet in September and October. Instead, please join our two Roundtables as follow-ups to Taking Nature Black (September 14) and Naturally Latinos (October 14). Learn more on p. 32. Conservation Café will explore the possibility of a hybrid model later this fall, but for now the talks below are scheduled to be online:

Rising to the Challenge: A New Climate Reality in the Potomac River Region. November 17, 7-8:30 pm: Join report author Dr. Audrey Ramming and Emmalee Amán, Director of Policy, Potomac Conservancy, for an introduction to the organization's new report that lays out how the climate crisis is affecting our local region and what we can do to help. Read the report at potomacclimatereport.org.

Reducing Building Emissions: Fighting one of the top two sources of greenhouse gases in the DC Region. December 8, 7-8:30 pm: Join representatives from the DC Green Bank and Solar United Neighbors to learn about how their programs are helping homeowners, renters, multifamily developers, and commercial properties in our region switch from methane gas to electric appliances, reduce energy usage through design and insulation, solar, and more.



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety

Camp Audubon

Camp Audubon thanks you for a great summer!



It's not too early to think about next summer! Registration for the 2022 camp season will open to ANS members on **Monday, January 24 at 10 am**. Join or renew by January 24 to register. The summer camp catalog will be available on our website in mid-December at www.anshome.org/summer-camps.

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Days Off Camps (Grades K-5)

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Monday, January 24, 2022

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Friday, April 1, 2022

Monday, May 2, 2022

8:45 am-5 pm

Members \$120; nonmembers \$140

Do you want your children to be outside in nature learning and having fun on their day off from school? Then send them to our School's Out Camp! We'll explore the Woodend Nature Sanctuary, get muddy in the pond, build forts, and play games. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Spring Break Camp (Grades K-5)

Monday, April 11-Thursday, April 14, 2022

8:45 am-3 pm

Extended camp available until 5:30 pm for \$100

Members \$365; nonmembers \$395

Experience the wonders of Spring at Camp Audubon! Catch frogs in the pond, hike to Rock Creek, and get your hands dirty in our Children's Garden! [REGISTER HERE](#)

Party With a Purpose

Birthday parties are back! When you celebrate with a birthday party at Woodend Sanctuary, you support us in providing nature education to children all over the DC Metro area. ANS offers nature-themed birthday parties for ages 4-10 at our Chevy Chase Nature Sanctuary. [REGISTER HERE](#)



- Choose from our party themes: Animal Clues, All About Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Wiggly Worms, Insect Investigations, Winter Detective, and Stayin' Alive When Winter Winds Blow.
- Parties are 1.5 hours and are held year-round on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Parties are \$245 for ANS members and \$280 for nonmembers (which includes a family membership).
- Birthday parties are held entirely outdoors, with access to the Teale Learning Center in case of inclement weather or to use the bathrooms.

Questions? Email brenna.houck@anshome.org or visit www.anshome.org/parents for more information.

Unplug and Play (Grades 1-4)

Get your child off the screen and into the green during this afterschool program on Mondays and Wednesdays. We'll have a snack, build forts, catch frogs, and let kids be kids! [REGISTER HERE](#)

Session 1: September 13-October 20
Mondays and Wednesdays (4-6 pm)
Members \$485; nonmembers \$525



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](#)

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.



GreenKids staff worked with MCPS this summer to instruct high school biology teachers in conducting stream assessments and identifying Creek Critters.

Children and Nature Photos



12



Campers show off their arts and crafts skills.



Campers in the Green Team earn Student Service Learning (SSL) credit by laying mulch on a new trail at Woodend.



Two campers enjoy netting in the pond in search of critters.

Adult Nature Programs

These programs offer nature novices and experienced naturalists alike an array of opportunities to explore and learn about our area's natural history. All programs are led by experienced naturalists. Lectures are held at Woodend Sanctuary. Field trips are reached by private vehicle.

Wild places are closer than you think.®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adults
- 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 8 – Widewater
- B: September 15 – Widewater
- C: September 22 – Carderock
- D: September 29 – Carderock
- E: October 6 – Violettes Lock
- F: October 13 – Violettes Lock
- G: October 20 – Pennyfield Lock
- H: October 27 – Pennyfield Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk: members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Enjoy one or more of these leisurely autumn walks along 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. November Meanders will be added to this schedule in early October. Thanks for registering for only one walk per field site.

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. At this time, masks are required indoors at Woodend for everyone. Maximum enrollment will remain at 10 for most programs. This policy is subject to change.

Fall Birding Series

- A. Saturday, September 11: Blue Mash Nature Trail, MD (Len Bisson) (7:30-10 am)
 - B. Wednesday, September 15: Little Bennett, MD (Mark England) (7:30-10 am)
 - C. Saturday, September 25: Dyke Marsh, VA (Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton) (7:30-10 am)
 - D. Tuesday, September 28: RedGate Park, MD (Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni) (8-10:30 am)
 - E. Wednesday, October 6: National Arboretum, DC (Paul Pisano) (8-10:30 am)
 - F. Sunday, October 10: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni) (8-10:30 am)
 - G. Sunday, October 17: Hughes Hollow, MD (Pam and Chris Oves) (8-10:30 am)
 - H. Tuesday, October 19: Lois Green Conservation Park, MD (Mark England) (8-10:30 am)
 - I. Sunday, October 24: Patuxent Research Refuge/Main Tract, MD (Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton) (8-10:30 am)
 - J. Saturday, October 30: Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA (Paul Pisano) (8-10:30 am)
- Each walk: members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Our fall birding series visits natural areas under an hour's drive from D.C. 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. 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. November trips will be added to the schedule in early October.

Fall in the Parks

9 am-1 pm

A. Sunday, September 12 - Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA

B. Sunday, October 3 - Patuxent Research Refuge/North Tract, MD

C. Saturday, October 23 - Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC

D. Sunday, October 31 - Monocacy Aqueduct, C&O Canal, MD

Each walk: members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Join our Senior Naturalist for these seasonal, broad-based nature explorations of nearby parks rich in natural history. We'll walk between 2-4 miles, on natural surface and possibly muddy trails, as we enjoy the development of fall color, late season blooms and insects, resident and migrating birds--and all manner of animal and plant life. Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge near Woodbridge, VA protects open grasslands as well as bottomlands along Belmont and Occoquan Bays. At the Patuxent Research Refuge/North Tract near Laurel, MD we'll explore Coastal Plain woodlands and wetlands. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, on the banks of the Anacostia River, features swamp, marsh and woodland habitats within sight of DC's urban sprawl. The C&O Canal Towpath will be our walking trail along the Potomac River as we hike upriver from the Monocacy Aqueduct near Dickerson, MD. *Several November walks in this series will be posted on our website in early October.*

Botany Hike in the Gold Mine Tract

Friday, September 17 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Fall is a great season to explore the plant life of the Gold Mine Tract, a large block of forest above the C&O Canal at Great Falls Park, MD. While not a true old-growth woodland, there are towering hardwood species to study and enjoy, and it is a fine example of Piedmont forest. Our hike of up to 3 miles will explore this area as we search for lingering blooms, developing fruits, and changing color. Terrain underfoot will be natural surface trails, which could be muddy and slippery, over gently rolling hills. Expect some uphill/downhill sections on this hike.

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.

Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers

Saturday, September 18 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

In Prince George's County, the Jug Bay Natural Area on the western shore of the Patuxent River offers old field, forest, and freshwater tidal habitats that are ideal for broad-based nature exploration. We'll look for still active butterflies and other insects, migrant and resident birds, and other wildlife against the backdrop of late summer blooms plus fruiting trees and shrubs. Expect a walk of around 2-3 miles with a small amount of uphill and downhill, some of it under open and sunny conditions.

Sleuthing for Spiders

Saturday, September 18 (1-4 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Spiders are ubiquitous creatures in our basements, meadows, and woodlots. While they inspire feelings of fear among many, they are a source of wonderment and mystery to the nature enthusiast. Join a naturalist for an introduction to the natural history and identification of spiders. On our field trip to McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area, near Poolesville, MD, we'll search for spiders in a variety of habitats and discuss their life histories, feeding strategies, and adaptations.

Evening on the Canal

Sunday, September 19 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Join us for a walk through the woodland and wetland habitats 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, katydids, moths, and other nocturnal and crepuscular animals, discussing the adaptations of creatures whose "day" begins as ours ends.

Fall Fungus Walk

Wednesday, September 22 (9:30-11:30 am)

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Leader: Serenella Linares

Fall is the ideal season to be introduced to the most common families of fungi in our area while finding out more about their natural history and ecological functions. The outdoor classroom will be our own Woodend Sanctuary, where trails will be natural surface and possibly muddy. The expert leader is one of our own staff, whose knowledge about any and all mushrooms that may pop up in your yard has earned her the apt and affectionate nickname Mushie. Note: the focus of these field outings will be fungi's important and under-appreciated role in forest ecology, not the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.

Forest Bathing Walk at Woodend

Thursday, September 23 (10-11:30 am)

Leader: Adria Zeldin

Members \$20; nonmembers \$30

Welcome the fall and cooler weather with monthly forest bathing walks at Woodend! Join tour leader in a soothing exploration and

mindfulness walk through the forests at Woodend. Relax and take in the fresh air and cool shade these trees have to offer. Learn about the mindfulness practice of forest bathing and experience its wonders with Certified Forest Therapy Guides. [REGISTER](#)



Ana Ka'ohamui

Fall Flora Fridays

Fridays (10 am-1 pm)

A: September 24 – Rock Creek Park, DC

B: October 22 – Blockhouse Point, MD

C: November 12 – Huntley Meadows, VA

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

Each walk members \$32; nonmembers \$44

These walks of up to 2 miles will celebrate the transition from lingering summer blooms to ripening seeds and fruits to the grand show of peak color and leaf fall. Although aimed at beginning to mid-level plant lovers, all are welcome. Expect a stop-and-go pace on natural surface trails in three local parks, with uphill/downhill stretches on walks A and B.

Fall Along the Appalachian Trail

Sunday, September 26 (9 am-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$36; nonmembers \$50

One of the best ways to experience the seasonal richness of our region is to take a hike along the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park, VA. On this moderately-strenuous trek in the northern section of the Park, we'll begin high in the saddle between North and South Marshall Mountains, before ascending South Marshall and then descending to the Browntown Trail. We'll retrace our steps back to the starting point for a total of around 4 miles--depending on the group's pace--with fairly significant uphill and downhill hiking along the way. We'll keep our eyes open and alert for all manner of early fall wildlife and plant sightings. *Participants should be in adequate physical condition for both uphill/downhill hiking on trails that will be rocky, uneven, and possibly muddy/slippery.*

Botanical Gems of Little Bennett Park

A. Thursday, September 30 (10 am-2 pm)

B. Tuesday, October 5 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Each walk members \$32; nonmembers \$44

At 3,700 acres, Little Bennett Regional Park near Clarksburg, MD is a protected area where you can still get lost. But don't worry: our leader--former forest ecologist for Montgomery County--knows this park well and she can't wait to share its gorgeous autumn display with you. Expect hiking through a variety of plant communities, including both wet and dry meadows, high quality upland woods, and riparian bottomlands. Explorations of at least a couple of miles will use park trails, but expect uphill and downhill, including some rocky stretches. Each hike will head off from the Wilson Mill parking area, but each will cover different terrain/parts of the Park.

Here Comes Fall

Friday, October 1 (10 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members: \$30; nonmembers \$42

Celebrate autumn's arrival with a plant-lovers' walk along the C&O Canal Towpath around Riley's Lock along the Potomac River. Our leader will focus on identification and natural history of the many local trees with compound leaves (think hickory, locust, black walnut and more) but there will also be time to enjoy fall wildflowers along the way.

Fall's Fungal Magic

Saturday, October 2 (6:30-9 pm)

Raindate: Sunday, October 3 (6:30-9 pm)

Leader: Serenella Linares

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42



Are there really bioluminescent fungi in our local forests? ANS staffer/mycologist Serenella Linares says YES - and she invites you to experience the magical glow of these mushrooms

at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary near Lothian, MD. On this special walk, we will look for mushroom species that glow in the dark on the forest floor. We'll also keep an eye open for fluorescent lichens. *Please notice (and keep free) the possible rain date reschedule.* A \$6 per car entrance fee to the Jug Bay Sanctuary is not included in our field trip fee. This will be paid to Jug Bay staff upon arrival.



Wonders at Woodend: Forest Bathing Through the Seasons

Friday, October 8 (9-11:30 am)
Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Savor the natural joy of this Autumn season on a forest bathing walk led by Melanie Choukas-Bradley, a longtime ANS field trip leader and author of *The Joy of Forest Bathing—Reconnect with Wild Places & Rejuvenate Your Life*. Discover the magic of shinrin-yoku, translated as “forest bathing,” a nature-oriented mindfulness practice that originated in Japan and has become popular worldwide. Enjoy the restoration of our Woodend Sanctuary as you explore and commune with the living things in its meadows, forest, and Blair Garden. Our leader is a Nature & Forest Therapy Guide with certification from the Association of Nature & Therapy Guides and Programs.

Natural Heritage Series: Blue Ridge Beginnings

Friday, October 8 (10 am-3 pm)
Leader: Stephanie Mason
Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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 autumn in Catoctin Mountain Park. We'll hike around 3-4 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 uneven and rocky ground, which may be muddy and/or slippery.

Intro to Tree Identification

Friday, October 15 (10 am-2 pm)
Leader: Stephanie Mason
Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Fall is an ideal time to learn how to identify local trees and shrubs. With brilliant leaves highlighting the twigs, new buds already formed, and fruits/seed pods hanging on, there are many distinguishing characteristics for sorting out different species. This outdoor session at our Woodend Sanctuary will begin under an open-air canopy with a study of tree parts/terminology and a tutorial in the use of a simple key. The group will then stroll around the grounds using these new skills to ID many native and local trees on site. *Both beginners and those who want to brush up on their tree ID skills are welcome.*

Full Moon Walk at Woodend

Wednesday, October 20 (6:30-8 pm)
Leader: Josh Schwartz
Members \$20; nonmembers \$30

In this session, certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide Josh Schwartz of A Greener Mind will guide you through sensory activities to help you slow down, awaken your senses, and connect with nature. Inspired by the Japanese practice of shinri-yoku, forest bathing is a research-based practice designed to promote health and wellbeing through immersions in natural settings. Join Josh on a full moon hike at Woodend. Explore the forests at night with the bright moon above. Listen for the owls and look for the flying squirrels or appreciate the night by the fire pit. [REGISTER](#)

Fall on Wheels Along the Canal

Friday, October 29 (9 am-2 pm)
Leader: Stephanie Mason
Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Fall colors are ablaze and the towpath along the Potomac River is one of the finest places in the D.C. 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 other still active wildlife. Bring your own bike.





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.**

Trees Are Resisting Climate Change: How?

Tuesday, September 7 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Dr. Angelica Patterson, Black Rock Forest, Master Science Educator

Join Dr. Angelica Patterson, The Shotgun Scientist, to learn how climate change is affecting our native trees and northeastern forests' ability to store carbon and protect us from climate change. Global historical declines in large-scale agriculture, timber harvesting and wildfires in this region's forests are helping it become one of the fastest growing sources of removing carbon dioxide from our atmosphere. [REGISTER](#)

The Epic Migrations of Birds

Wednesday, September 8 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Dr. Pete Marra, Director, Georgetown Environment Initiative

Travel on a hemispheric journey with Georgetown Environment Initiative Director, Dr. Pete Marra, to discover the unknown migrations of the birds, the latest technologies used for bird tracking, and why it's up to us to uncover the secrets of bird biology to protect these marvelous species. Migratory birds are the Olympians of the natural world - traveling extreme distances, flying at night in flocks of tens of thousands of individuals, and moving through treacherous terrain with untold obstacles threatening their every move. Explore the question of why more than 50% of North America's migratory species are declining at unprecedented rates. [REGISTER](#)



A Maryland BIG Year: Birds, Nature, and Life

Tuesday, September 14 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Orietta Estrada, Amplify the Future, Co-founder



Experience a Maryland state-wide bird watching adventure through the eyes of Orietta Estrada, Co-Founder of Amplify the Future. In 2018, Estrada journeyed across Maryland to see as many birds as possible within one calendar year. Explore the hotspots she

discovered, unforgettable observations, photos, and experiences.

[REGISTER](#)

Cafecito con Azucar - The Effects of Imperialism on Borinquen Birds, Land, and Culture

Thursday, September 16 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Yamina Nater-Otero, Naturalist, Audubon NY

Learn about the world's oldest colony, Borinquen (Puerto Rico) from Yamina Nater-Otero, Puertorrican Birder from Audubon New York. What do birds and humans have in common? A need for clean air, clean water, and green spaces. Discover the diversity, and the struggles of its birds and people as a result of imperialism.

[REGISTER](#)





Ecology and Natural History of Fall Webworms

Tuesday, September 21 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mariana Abarca, Smith College, Assistant Professor

Learn all about Fall webworms from Entomology Professor Dr. Mariana Abarca. Fall webworms (*Hyphantria cunea*) are caterpillars native to North America that can feed on more than 400 species of plants. Their generalist nature has aided them to colonize other continents, becoming an agricultural pest in Europe and Asia. In this talk, we'll discuss the natural history of fall webworms, their relationships with host plants and natural enemies, and the traits that have enabled them to expand their geographic range. [REGISTER](#)

Fall is for Mushrooms! Get to Know the Bounty in your DMV Backyard

Thursday, September 23 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Serenella Linares, ANS Adult Programs Director

Explore the forests of Maryland, DC and Virginia with ANS Adult Programs Director Serenella Linares. As the summer temperatures finally cool down, the bounty of mushrooms in the forests expands its reach upwards producing a rainbow of colors in the forest floor. Learn to recognize the fantastic creatures connecting the trees in the forest and balancing the entire ecosystem. [REGISTER](#)



Mysterious Nature and Lore by Capital Naturalist

Tuesday, October 12 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Alonso Abugattas, Founder of Capital Naturalist

Enjoy a night of mystery and intrigue with the Capital Naturalist Alonso Abugattas. During this talk attendees will enjoy learning some of the lesser-known natural phenomena in our region and their influence in our culture. You don't want to miss this opportunity to engage with one of our most dynamic speakers! [REGISTER](#)

Urban Bats: Studying and Protecting our Wildlife Neighbors

Tuesday, October 26 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Ela-Sita Carpenter, Urban Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

When you think of urban wildlife, critters like rats, pigeons, and raccoons may come to mind - but what about bats? Bats often have a scary reputation but play an important role in ecosystems and face conservation threats. Dr. Ela-Sita Carpenter will talk about what led her to study bats in Baltimore, her tricks to studying them, and what results she uncovered. She will also talk about threats to bats and ways we can support them as their neighbors. [REGISTER](#)

Murder Mysteries of Insect Predators and Parasitoids

Thursday, October 28 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mike Raupp, Emeritus Professor of Entomology, University of Maryland

Entomology Professor Emeritus Mike Raupp takes us on a fascinating look at the murderous insects of the DMV, their biodiversity, natural history, and feeding strategies. From parasitoids wasps to wheel bugs we will see it all! Learn how insects are helping control other insect populations via predation. Don't miss this thriller of the natural world! [REGISTER](#)

For more October programs, visit www.anshome.org/naturalist-hour

Join us for two of our most popular recordings!

40 Birds that Everyone in the DMV Should Know
with Mark Garland

Fear, Fascination and Fun in 2021 with the Return of
Periodical Cicadas with Dr. Mike Raupp

[REGISTER](#) for these recordings and a YouTube link will be sent to you for viewing at your convenience.
\$10 members; \$12 nonmembers



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.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, 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](https://anshome.org/nhfs).

Human Ecology

NATH8280, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: September 13-November 15

Location: Lectures via Zoom

Field trip dates: October 2, Farmer's Market Old Town Alexandria and October 30, Anacostia River Tour

Online lectures and two field trips: ANS members \$300; nonmembers \$330

Instructor: Sally Valdes

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



As human populations and demands for goods increase our species cannot escape the biological and physical constraints/impacts of food production, over-harvesting of natural resources, industrialization and energy use. These impacts affect the quality of life for our species, as well as the species we share this planet with. These impacts include degradation of air and water quality, replacement of natural habitats with habitats of our own design, and global level climate change. Applying ecological principles, we will examine our role in pressing environmental problems and evaluate potential solutions, including renewable energy sources and sustainable food systems. The ecosystem services provided by the biota will need to be factored into these solutions. Recommended prior course: Introduction to Ecology (NATH1160E), or equivalent. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled. Registration closes September 8.



Summer Insect life instructor, Cathy Stragar, with her students during a field Identification exercise at Woodend.

Botany for Naturalists

NATH7125E, 1.5 credits

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: September 14-October 19. No class October 12

Field trip dates: September 25, October 9 (10 am-1 pm)

Location: Lectures via zoom

Online lectures and two field trips: ANS members \$190, nonmembers \$220

Instructor: Sujata Roy

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

This course will provide the nature enthusiast with a grounding in the science of plants. Green plants (and algae) provide the oxygen that supports life as we know it on earth. Learn about the internal workings of vascular and avascular plants, their life histories, special adaptations for growth and reproduction and their place in ecological cycles. Two field trips are planned to local sites of great plant diversity. This class is meant to provide a broad understanding of the internal functions of plants, in order to deepen the student's understanding and appreciation of plants of all kinds. Recommended for anyone with an interest in plants and their development. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled. Registration closes September 8.



Microbial Ecology

NATH7300E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: October 27-December 1

Location: Lectures via zoom

Field trip dates: Saturday, October 30 and second TBA

Online lectures and two field trips: ANS members \$190; nonmembers \$220

Instructor: Lynn Rust

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

This course focuses on the biological and chemical contributions of microorganisms (bacteria, Archaea, protists, algae) to higher-order systems. The contribution of microbes to microbiomes within higher plant and animal organisms; soil, ocean, and freshwater ecosystems; global nutrient cycling; and, human-designed and –adapted environmental systems will be examined. Field trips will explore the role of microbes in local ecosystems. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled. Registration closes October 21.

Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

Registration is now being 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.

Adults and Nature Photos



ANS volunteer and photographer Gaby Paola Pena takes a stroll in the forest near our new wattle fence. Photo by Ben Israel.



Twenty five members of the Long Branch Community Center and Montgomery County Recreation Seniors on the Go camp visited Woodend Sanctuary to help Volunteer Coordinator Mitch Greene develop material for the Walks at Woodend Program. This tour focused on forest stream and trail restoration. And because part of the accessible trail was open, Mitch was able to lead people with mobility differences on the tour! Photos above and below by Ben Israel.



Partner Profile



ANS was fortunate to work with some really fantastic restoration professionals on our Nature for All projects. We would particularly like to thank Greg Hoffman and Ari Daniels of the Center for Watershed Protection, Jesse Turner of LIFT Environmental Design, and Eric Ettenhoffer and Maurice Chioda of Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting. We found it encouraging that four companies that contributed to the restoration projects are owned or led by women. We hope you'll enjoy reading about the career paths of two of those women below, as well as the construction project manager for our stream and trail projects.



Donna An pictured on left.

Donna An, Principal/Owner Actaeon, LLC

Donna An is the Principal and Owner of the environmental restoration and construction company Actaeon, LLC, which served as a subcontractor to build a raingarden and the accessible parking area for the stream and trail project.

There is a little bit of everything in restoration - science, policy, marketing, business management, landscaping, construction - and it takes a well-rounded team of professionals to succeed. What gets me up and out the door at the crack of dawn in the dead cold of winter or humid heat of summer is having a productive team that tackles the day's challenges together. We enjoy the work, take pride in delivering successful projects, and consider the ecosystem itself to be one of our most important clients. The Woodend project is an exciting opportunity to restore meadow, stream, and forest habitat in a secluded oasis in the midst of an urbanized area. Better yet, it has the ability to reach young people.

Eric Ettenhoffer, Stormwater Maintenance and Consulting (SMC)

Eric Ettenhoffer was the Project Manager for SMC, the general contractor that performed the stream and trail restoration at Woodend.

I got into ecological restoration work through landscaping. After many years in the industry, I became interested in putting that skill set towards projects that enhance and restore, not just attempt to tame the environment. SMC has given me the opportunity to work on projects that focus on that. The thing I enjoy most about my job is the opportunity to work on projects that have public exposure and use. Projects like the one at Woodend not only enhance the environment, but also the public's ability to engage and enjoy it.



Eric Ettenhoffer



Lynette Scaffidi

Lynette Scaffidi, Owner of Empire Landscape

Lynette Scaffidi is co-owner of Empire Landscape, the subcontractor that installed the tree, shrub and herbaceous plantings along the restored stream and trail at Woodend.

My passion for the outdoors started with building forts in the woods and playing in the creek, which led to my degrees in Natural Resource and Wildlife Habitat Management. I worked for 20 years as a Park Naturalist, inspiring the next generation to appreciate being outside and learning about nature. Over the years, I observed the demise of our natural ecosystems due to invasive species, degradation of water quality and over-browsing by white-tailed deer. I began to focus on what was impacting our ecosystems. This led me to spend my final years with Montgomery County Parks, working on invasive species management and reforestation, which provided a natural transition to starting my own environmental restoration company.

Construction has traditionally been a male-dominated industry; however, women are becoming a key part of the restoration workforce. Thinking about leadership in environmental restoration, I like to quote Abby Wambach, "Lead from where you are." Don't wait for permission or a job title, but each day challenge the leader within yourself by observing what needs to be done and doing it.

Stream Science



VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

For over 25 years, ANS has been teaching the natural history of aquatic ecology and training volunteer stream monitors to track the health of our region's streams. Learn from the experts: study stream science in our introductory classes, and you just might be inspired to become a stream monitor yourself! Our classes are taught by our Maryland Biological Stream Survey-trained Instructor Cathy Wiss. To learn more about classes or becoming a volunteer, contact cleanstreams@anshome.org.

Learn More & Get our Data:

<https://anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring>

Look under "Reports & Data" for a map and data for all of our sites.

STREAM SCIENCE CLASSES

Cost for all classes: \$15 ANS members / \$25 nonmembers / Free for anyone who has monitored with the ANS program in the last two years. Register at anshome.org/events/stream-science-classes.

How to Read Your Stream*

Wednesday, September 22 (7-9:30 pm)

Virtual via Zoom

Learn about the influence of land uses on streams, stream character and dynamics, bank erosion, bar formation, substrate composition, different velocity-depth regimes, and the importance of riffles and riparian vegetation. We will practice assessing stream habitat by using photographs of streams and the forms that monitors fill out in the field.



Wildcat Branch, Montgomery County, MD. Photo by Gregg Trilling.

Field Workshop*

Sunday, September 26 (1:30-4 pm)

Ten Mile Creek, Boyds, MD

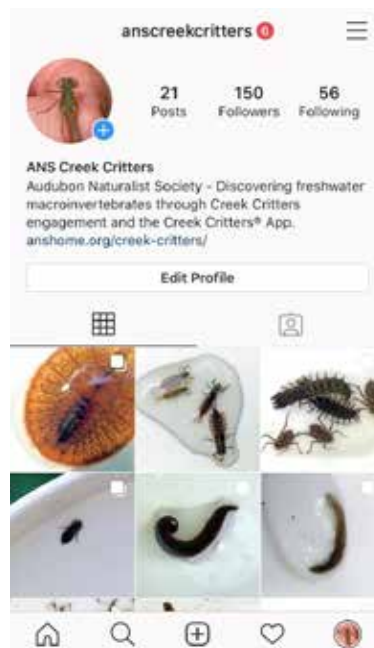
We will visit a healthy stream to practice monitoring techniques and to collect and identify the benthic macroinvertebrates we find.

* These classes are recommended for all volunteer monitors and those interested in joining the program.

Self-Paced Stream Science Classes

These classes are pre-recorded. Each class runs 45–70 minutes and includes photos and videos collected by our own volunteers and staff, plus recommended videos from other sources.

- **Stream Science Introduction: Healthy Stream Biology*** An introduction to monitoring and non-insect macroinvertebrates.
- **Advanced Macroinvertebrate Identification Series:** Learn aquatic macroinvertebrate identification to the family level. These classes are required for all volunteer monitoring team leaders and will offer any interested naturalist, fly fisher, aquatic scientist, or more a great education on the animals that live in our region's streams. Topics include Caddisflies; Beetles; Megaloptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera; True Flies; Damselflies and Dragonflies; Mayflies; Stoneflies; Bonus review session if you sign up for the full series. *15% discount for entire class series (\$102 members/\$170 nonmembers).*



Check out **ANS CREEK CRITTERS® 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

Feature Photos



ANS meadows and gardens are flourishing with wildlife. Above, an American goldfinch rests among coneflowers. Below, a black swallowtail butterfly flits among Joe Pye Weed near the entrance to the mansion. Photos by Ben Israel.



Black-eyed susans bloom in abundance and brighten our sanctuary. Photo by Ben Israel.



A dragonfly pauses on a branch near our pond. Photo by Ben Israel.

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/travel.

We are hoping to be able to resume Nature Travel in 2022 with our perennially popular trip to **Costa Rica** led by Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason in early February. Some other trips in the planning stages include Owls and Winter Birding in **Minnesota** (February 2022) with Paul Pisano and our **South Texas** trip (November 2022).

Let us know if you're interested in these upcoming trips, as well as possible destinations at the eco-resort on **Little Saint Simon's Island** and nearby areas in in Georgia; **Central Florida**; and **Southeastern Arizona**. Email: carol.hayes@anshome.org.



Montezuma Oropendola by Stephanie Mason

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Annual Talk

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Annual Talk is being planned for late fall, 2021.

Please check our web page for further information at <https://anshome.org/crowder-messersmith-fund> or contact carol.hayes@anshome.org to receive updates and our C-M Newsletter by email.

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund 2021 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, navigating world-wide pandemic restraints to achieve their goals. The Crowder-Messersmith Committee awarded their 2021 grants to the following 11 groups:

- In **Honduras**, continuing educational goals for the species survival of the critically endangered *Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana*;
- Creating a youth environmental leadership program in **Malawi**;
- Studying the distribution and status of the endangered Red-bellied Monkey in **Benin**;
- In **Uganda**, undertaking the conservation of the endemic Cycad plants;
- In **Nepal**, raising public awareness of the need for Musk Deer conservation, a vital species in the alpine ecosystem;
- Saving the vulnerable West African Dwarf Crocodile from local extinction in **Liberia**;
- Enhancing awareness of and grassroots administration for the sustainable management of *Cyperus papyrus* in **Ethiopia**;
- In **Madagascar**, mitigating the increasing of pressures on Lemur species brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Promoting community-based conservation of the endangered Grey Crested Crane in **Western Uganda**;
- Organizing the first Nepal Crocodile Festival to promote crocodile ecosystem conservation in **Nepal**;
- Supporting community conservation programs to protect the endangered Hildegard's Tomb Bat from human persecution and habitat loss in coastal **Kenya**.

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

Volunteer Corner

An occasional feature that highlights the many and varied opportunities and volunteers at ANS

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

I'm very excited to let you know about a new volunteer opportunity that will be available to our highly trained volunteers.

The Restoration team at ANS has been working hard all summer to develop three group tours of Woodend. In addition to our regular Saturday morning introductory birding and family walks, these Walks at Woodend will offer visitors an opportunity to learn more about ANS. Beginning this fall ANS staff will lead:

- Gardens of Woodend
- Trees of Woodend
- Natural Lands of Woodend

Each of these tours will provide visitors information on a variety of subjects, including history of the land of Woodend, basic stormwater management techniques, and restoration practices. One tour, the Natural Lands of Woodend, will remain exclusively on our new accessible trail!

While Bradley Simpson, Jenny Brown and I will enjoy leading these tours starting in September, we're looking for volunteers to help, too. We've started selecting the first class of Naturalist Tour Leaders; look for them to lead tours in the spring. We'll be gaining momentum over the coming months and will start to look for more help from volunteers this winter.

There will be a long-term training program so that you'll be set up for success before you ever lead your first tour. There are some prerequisites. Enthusiasm is the #1 requirement. You'll be working with visitors and guests of all ages, experiences and abilities. Your willingness to share your knowledge with everyone who visits us is key. Additionally, if you:

- Are a certified MD Master Naturalist, NHFS student/graduate, or have a degree/work experience in natural history;
- Have completed the ANS volunteer IDEA training;
- Are passionate about sharing your knowledge of the natural world with others;
- Able to participate in our training program,

Then we would love to have you as a Naturalist Tour Leader.

Please contact me for more information or to let me know you'd like to become a Volunteer Naturalist.

We're also looking for a few more folks to help us fledge nestling birders. If you're interested in helping with our introductory birding walks, please contact me at mitch.greene@anshome.org.

I truly appreciate the work you do for us.

The Plants of Woodend: How do I love thee, Rudbeckias and Solidagos?

By Jenny Brown, Garden Outreach Associate

Earlier this summer, I vowed to finally learn to identify all the *Rudbeckias* (coneflowers and black-eyed susans) and *Solidagos* (goldenrods). I decided I had better get a handle on the asters, too. I know a few species



Goldenrod by Alison Pearce

in each of these three genera of fall blooming native plants. But there are so many of each! There are four *Rudbeckia* species listed in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. Easy enough. There are ten *Solidagos*! Yikes! And there are five *Symphotrichums* (asters) and several more *Eurybias* (also asters). I have my work cut out for me! And these are by no means all of them. What Herculean task had I set myself? Could I find many of them at Woodend? Turns out, I could! So far, I've identified *Rudbeckia fulgida* in the entryway path and raingarden along the drive. The *Rudbeckia laciniata* (cutleaf coneflower) is near the greenhouse. There's *Solidago canadensis* (Canada goldenrod) and *Solidago caesia* (bluestem or wreath goldenrod) in the Blair Garden. I know there are more in the meadows. I'm just getting started on the asters. We have *Symphotrichum oblongifolium* (fragrant aster) planted along the edge of the Shop parking lot. *Eurybia divaricata* (white wood aster) has formed a solid mass of ground cover on the steep slope of the drive opposite the hemlock grove. To get more of these fall beauties down pat, I'll keep bringing my flower ID resources to Woodend. Maybe someday I'll know them all. Please consider visiting our meadows and gardens to learn them, too!

*This great resource is available in the ANS shop for only \$6 if you don't already own it.

Landscapes for Life: Conservation Gardening

Thursdays, September 30-November 18 (1-3 pm)

Instructor: Jenny Brown

Members \$245; nonmembers \$280

Take a deeper dive into the world of gardening. Using a curriculum developed by the US Botanic Garden and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, our Garden Outreach Associate Jenny Brown will teach you to nurture both native and edible plants to feed wildlife, while making your own lifestyle more sustainable. This series of eight classes will be in person at Woodend in the outdoor classroom of our Learning Garden. Visit www.anshome.org/events-calendar for more details and to register.



Naturalist Quarterly Editor Says So Long

Dear Naturalist Quarterly Readers,

It's been my great pleasure and privilege to be the managing editor of this wonderful publication since January 2017. I'm stepping down as editor of the Quarterly and Director of Marketing and Communications for ANS effective October 31 to explore another field. But I look forward to seeing some of you around the sanctuary and to keeping up with ANS events. I hope you've enjoyed the work of our staff over nearly five years to make the Quarterly more vibrant with a lot more photos from around the region and stories that address opportunities for greater environmental engagement. Thank you for being our friends. Best regards, **Caroline Brewer**



STAFF UPDATES

We welcome three new teachers to our Audubon Nature Preschool this fall. **Jaala Shaw**, Acorns Teacher, holds an M.A. in Early Childhood Education, an M.A. in TESOL, and a B.A. in Political Science and Education. Besides teaching, Jaala and her husband Larry, along with their dog Carmen love to do ultra-endurance events, summit big mountains, and rock climb. **Kristin Horneffer**, Saplings Teacher, holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Yale and a M.A. in Special Education from American University. A native of Virginia, Kristin spent her childhood outdoors and has taught in a variety of different schools, nonprofits, and summer camps. In her free time, Kristin loves drawing, playing guitar, hiking, and foraging for mushrooms. **Mary Franklin**, Oaks Teacher, holds a B.A. in American Studies from Muhlenberg College and is certified in Elementary Education, and holds a MLS from the University of Maryland where she focused on children's literature. She loves travel, cooking, reading, and of course the outdoors.

We say goodbye to **Jacky Wershale**, our Development Director since 2014. Jacky was a transformative figure in ANS fundraising. Thanks to her leadership, we launched signature fundraising events, succeeded with our Nature for All capital campaign and welcomed many new donors, funders and supporters. Jacky will be sharing her fundraising talent with Capitol Technical University in Maryland. We wish her every success!

We bid a fond farewell to Audubon Nature Preschool teachers **Ruth Polk**, **Shannon Earle**, **Chelsea Hawk**, **Belinda Kalala** and **Kate Bueno** as they travel new trails and forge new paths. We are endlessly grateful for their incredible contributions to connecting children and families with nature during their many years of service at ANS. They will continue to inspire Audubon Nature Preschool's work with young children and families for years to come.

We are also sad to see **Ari Eisenstadt**, our DC Conservation Advocate since 2019, leave for the West Coast. Ari will be taking a position as the Regenerate California Campaign Manager at the California Environmental Justice Alliance. He set a new course for advocacy and outreach in the District for ANS and made a huge impact on us and our partners.



Congratulations to **Diane Ford**, an ANS member and Birdathon counter, who won the 2021 California Duck Stamp Art Contest with her painting of a pair of Gadwalls. Diane is a fabulous artist and birder who also designs the ANS holiday card each year. Proceeds from the stamps will support waterfowl conservation projects in California. Congratulations Diane!

Tree Planting Ceremony for Helen Patton

The Audubon Naturalist Society is delighted to host a tree planting ceremony in honor of Helen Ann Patton, a former president, secretary, and long-time member of the Montgomery Bird Club, and a longtime ANS member, volunteer and a member of the leadership team for the Nature for All Capital Campaign. Please join us to honor our dear friend by planting a tree donated by Mike Bowen, sharing memories, and gathering together at a place she loved so much.



Photo by Mike Bowen

Sunday, October 17 at 10 am at Woodend

All are welcome. Because we are closely monitoring gathering restrictions, we do need an attendance list and head count. Please RSVP at <https://forms.office.com/r/dBmtKxjGGN>

Name Task Force Update

The Name Task Force met monthly from March through July, 2021. ANS owes a debt of gratitude to the Name Task Force volunteers that included members of the ANS staff, Board, volunteers and community partners. They read dozens of articles, combed through workshop transcripts, reviewed member survey data and met with brand experts. They concluded their work in July and will make a presentation to the ANS Board of Directors in September. Results of the process will be announced at the Annual Meeting on October 21, 2021. Please be sure to join us!



GRAND OPENING

of the Restored Woodend Nature Sanctuary

You're Invited

to join us on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the FREE grand opening celebration of Woodend Nature Sanctuary 8940 Jones Mill Rd. in Chevy Chase, MD.



Come celebrate Woodend's

- New trails accessible to wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, and canes
- New native plants in our woods
- Newly restored stream, and more!

Docent-led Tours • Native Plant Sale • Scavenger Hunt • Shop Discounts

See all the details at anshome.org/grand-opening



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety



Expanding Opportunities for Careers in Forestry & Environmental Protection



Free, Online Event

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 • 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (EST)



Marcus Elam
Virginia Dept.
of Corrections



Shelley Thomas
PowerCorpsPHL



Alex Smith
Division
Landscaping



Bekura Shabazz
First Alliance
Consulting, LLC



Grady Mitchell
Roots of
Success



Caroline Brewer
ANS
Taking Nature Black



Beatra Wilson
USFS Urban and
Community Forestry



Ketu Oladuwá
Poet and
Spoken Word Artist

Join us for a free, 90-minute ZOOM roundtable to discuss holistic strategies to connect the green movement with second chance/re-entry services.

Expanding opportunities, including education, experiential learning, and other workforce development approaches for the re-entry community can extend healing to individuals, families and our land.

Hosted by ANS's Taking Nature Black Conference, with sponsorship from the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Urban and Community Forestry.

Register at anshome.org/taking-nature-black



NATURALLY LATINOS CONFERENCE



Hispanic Heritage Month
Roundtable

Caring for Community through Crisis



Caring for Community through Crisis: Latinx Communities Responses to Climate Change, Covid, and More

Thursday, October 14, 7-8:30 pm

FREE

Join us for a candid conversation that explores how Latinx communities nationwide and in the Washington, DC region are responding to environmental, health, and economic crises while looking ahead to the future. Live interpretation to Spanish available. Event is held virtually. FREE (registration required), with thanks to our sponsor and partner the US Forest Service Office of Urban and Community Forestry, Civil Rights, and Wilderness/Wild & Scenic Rivers. Register at <https://anshome.org/nlc-hhm-2021>

Panelists:

- **Pedro Cruz**, Acting Director of the Healthy Communities Campaign at the Sierra Club
- **Brenda Perez Amador**, DC DOEE Office of Urban Agriculture and community organizer (honored as an Environmental Champion at Naturally Latinos 3)
- **Norberto Martinez**, Executive Director of the Langley Park Civic Association and Hispanic liaison in the MD court system
- **Moderator: Serenella Linares**, ANS Director of Adult Programs and Naturally Latinos Conference Co-Chair

Thank you to TD Bank for being a Gold Level/\$10,000 Sponsor for our 2020 Naturally Latinos and 2021 Taking Nature Black Conferences.



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Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon**



Nationalist Society 75493 in the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.

SAVE the DATE

ANS Holiday Party & Auction
Saturday, December 4
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Celebrate the season with friends and family at Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

Pickup some unique gifts at our silent auction while enjoying music, food and festivities.

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.



Restoration

Starting in September, ANS is offering a variety of ways for you to enjoy Woodend Sanctuary with nature programs led by staff and volunteers. Register for upcoming walks at www.anshome.org/woodend-tours.

Woodend Tours

Restoration staff members will lead educational walks focused on trees, gardens, and natural habitats. Private tours for groups are also available and can be scheduled by visiting <https://anshome.org/woodend-private-tour>.

Forest Bathing

Enjoy the natural setting of Woodend, while also using mindfulness to reduce stress. This fall we are offering several forest bathing walks at Woodend include a full moon walk in October and a solstice walk in December. See "Adult Nature Programs" starting on page 16 for full descriptions of the walks.

Family Walks in the Woods

On the first Saturday of each month, families with young children can join Master Naturalist Frank Sanford on morning strolls around Woodend. Participants of all ages will learn something new about the wonders of Woodend's habitats during these seasonally themed walks.

Beginning Bird Walks

These monthly Saturday morning walks will provide an introduction to birding, including binocular basics. With fall migration approaching, there will be many opportunities to see birds using stopover habitat at Woodend as they travel south for the winter.

For more information on Walks at Woodend, please contact Restoration Manager, Bradley Simpson, at bradley.simpson@anshome.org.



A new four-legged visitor surprised us during a walk near the pond. Photo by Ben Israel.



Carolina wren, one of many songbirds found on our sanctuary. Photo by Jane Gamble.



An Eastern box turtle suns itself on a rock in our newly restored pond at Woodend.

ANS and ILSR (Institute for Local Self-Reliance) Composting Workshop

Monday, October 18 (11 am-1 pm)

Members \$20; nonmembers \$25

We will meet at the Learning Garden at Woodend below the Atlas Cedar Tree. Brenda Platt and Sophia Hosain of ILSR will teach us how to set up and maintain a successful home composting system and will inform participants of the latest DC Metro initiatives and regulations for composting. Attendees are invited to bring a bag lunch to eat in the greenhouse and contribute their compost appropriate leftovers to the bins. Children welcome at no additional charge. Questions? Email jenny.brown@anshome.org.

ANS Garden Consultations

Looking to add habitat and food sources for wildlife in your garden? Want to start growing some of your own food? Sign up for an on-site **yard/garden consultation** with ANS Garden Outreach Associate Jenny Brown.

- 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 <https://anshome.org/woodend-garden/>



Jenny Brown was a wonderful help in giving ideas about how to help make our yard more pollinator and bird friendly. She was not only knowledgeable but she was also very encouraging and simply nice to spend time with. I appreciated how thoughtfully she took stock of what we had already done while making very pragmatic recommendations and directing us to resources we hadn't been aware of. I am very grateful to Audubon Naturalist Society for making Jenny's talents available. - Susy Cheston

Thank you to the U.S. Forest Service in the U.S. Department of Agriculture for being a Diamond Level/\$25,000 Sponsor for our 2020 Naturally Latinos and 2021 Taking Nature Black Conferences.



Thank you to the National Trust for Public Land for being a Gold Level/\$10,000 Sponsor for our 2020 Naturally Latinos and 2021 Taking Nature Black Conferences.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND



Thank you to our Sponsors of the 41st BLOOMIN' BIRDATHON



Osprey Sponsors
Linda Lear and John Nickum

Owl Sponsor



Heron Sponsor



Hawk Sponsors



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our Bloomin' Birdathon SOAR again this year!

Once again, the global pandemic forced us to cancel our regular fundraising events and rely solely on our annual Bloomin' Birdathon. And once again, ANS members and supporters rose, or rather soared, to the occasion. **As a result, we were able to raise an incredible \$101,685 for this year's Bloomin' Birdathon!** Thank you all so much!

Following our Covid-19 rules, longstanding and new counters went out to scout for birds, wildflowers and even fungi! A new ANS Master Naturalists team was formed. We were able to hold a socially-distanced Big Sit at Woodend. And generous new sponsors came forward to support the Bloomin' Birdathon this year.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the 41st Annual Bloomin' Birdathon either as counters or supporters. These funds were urgently needed to help ANS get through the shutdown and begin to reopen 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 fundraisers:

- Stephanie Mason and Pam Oves: \$19,007
- Katherine Payne and Patti Mackey: \$14,798
- ANS Board of Directors Team: \$9,339
- Team Cottingham: \$8,264
- ANS Staff Teams: \$8,132
- Marcia Minichiello: \$3,775
- Stephen and Liz Jones: \$1,662
- Cecily Nabors and Diane Ford: \$1,586

Our heartfelt thanks goes as well to the other Bloomin' Birdathon participants: Anna Anders (with Ean Roger, Kellyn and Michyla), Jane Burner, Katherine Corsico, Neal Fitzpatrick and John Bjerke, Lisa Norwalk, Sheila Cochran and David Putnam, Kathy Rushing, Nicholas Schliapin, Liz Wagner, Nora Whitmore – and to everyone who supported our valiant counters.

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who has helped us get through the pandemic by supporting our 41st Annual Bloomin' Birdathon and other fundraising appeals. Your generosity and support make a huge difference to our work. We could not do it without you!

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS May-July 2021

IN HONOR OF:

Karoline Anders and Anna Anders

Roger Anders

Carol Anderson & David Mecklenburg

Kristina Maldarelli

Maureen S. Baltay

Eamon & Eileen Magee

Felix and Asa

Stuart Naranch

Wayne Morris

Warren Morris

Max Newman

Robert & Marianne Smythe

Sophie Preston

Edmund & Eleanor Preston

Frank Sanford

P.E.O. International Sisters

Jim Stufft

Joe & Mary Howard

Thursday Craft Group

Sarah Stout

IN MEMORY OF:

Yvonne Ayoroa

Sandra Alvarado

Natalie Bollerud

Erica Bollerud

Susan Hurst Calderone

Leslie Calderone

Cris Fleming

Tolulope Adetayo; Marjorie Richman

Jeanne A. Jarvis

David Jarvis

Dorothy Lee Holden

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Louise Lees

Lynn McReynolds

Nancie McManus

Joseph McManus

Richard Taft

Sheila Blum

Daniel A. Webber

Peter A. & Bernadette Chapin

John Williamson

Linda & Michael Wolfson

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

For up-to-date info on Covid and ANS programming, visit www.anshome.org/covid

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.

ANS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 21, 6-9 pm

Woodend Sanctuary

Guest Speaker: Mark S. Garland "The COVID Year"

Calling all ANS members and supporters! Be sure to join us for the 2021 Annual Meeting to celebrate the ways we've thrived during the pandemic and adapted to change. We'll revel in the opening of our wheelchair accessible nature trail and the completion of our stream restoration.

The evening event will include recognition of volunteers and Natural History Field Studies graduates, an update on consideration of an organizational name change, 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://anshome.org/annual-meeting-2021> by Friday, October 15. In-person attendance is limited. A virtual viewing option will be available. *If we are unable to meet in person because of government gathering restrictions due to COVID, we will hold the Annual 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 www.anshome.org/board after October 1.



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Or check out our online shop at <https://audubon-naturalist-society.square.site/>

