

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY



Naturalist Quarterly

Autumn 2020

ANSHOME.ORG



**Healing Our Land -
The Election Issue**

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-Friday 10 AM-5 PM
Saturday 9 AM-5 PM
Sunday 12-5 PM

GROUNDS HOURS

Open 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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COVER Photo of Great Blue Heron by Jane Gamble. Taken at Huntley Meadows Park, VA.

From the Director

Healing the Past, Safeguarding the Future

I never imagined that six months after we received our stay at home orders, our region and nation would still be gripped by the pandemic crisis. By the time this *Naturalist Quarterly* goes online, the CDC projects nearly 200,000 Americans will have died from the disease. And those tragic deaths disproportionately affect our African American and Latinx communities.



ANS hasn't been spared. Our loved ones have become sick and some have died. Our treasured colleagues have battled illness. We miss our far away families. ANS partners have faced financial losses that threaten their very existence. But thanks to ANS's generous members and supporters, the immense creativity and dedication of our staff, and the deep commitment of our Board of Directors to fulfilling the ANS mission, we are weathering this crisis, albeit with a new and sharper focus on our role in the DC metro region. (See Covid box at right).

I suspect that, like me, you are stressed and challenged by all that has unfolded around us. The pain points are many - from the pandemic to the intractable racial injustice in our country - from the threats to Black lives at the hands of police and white supremacists - to the disgraceful use of force on peaceful protestors. Recent protests affect me personally. In my own household, we work to support Black Lives Matter while at the same time honoring my sister, a 32-year-veteran of the Chicago Police Department and the members of my extended family who are police officers too. Each of us must find the lane where we can do the most good in a deeply divided world.

At Audubon Naturalist Society we have spent the last four years identifying our organizational lane for addressing systemic racism and environmental justice. We know that the only way forward is to work on healing past wrongs in order to safeguard the future. We started by acknowledging that the mainstream environmental movement has been elitist, racist and exclusionary. (See the article on John James Audubon on page 32). And we leaned in by making Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility a core pillar of our Strategic Plan to guide everything we do.

We aren't getting it all right, and the mistakes are painful. But we learn from our mistakes with the clear-eyed understanding that we must never stop doing this work in support of healing and justice. Audubon Naturalist Society must defend nature and defend all peoples' rights to access nature, breathe clean air, drink clean water, and live in healthy environmental conditions. That is what Nature for All means.

Even as we face financial hardship from the Covid-19 crisis, ANS remains committed to delivering our Naturally Latinos and Taking Nature Black conferences (see page 22). We will continue to bring environmental education to children in all zip codes in the DC metro region in new and creative ways. We will win policy fights to address the climate crisis and combat the negative effects of heat islands on low-income communities (see page 23).

As we implement our new Advocacy Priorities (www.anshome.org/conservation), I hope you'll join us in championing human health and access to nature as a top priority for all jurisdictions in the DC metro region. Please step up to work with us to address centuries of environmental injustice that have led to long-term health impacts on communities of color, compounded by negative effects of climate change, and playing out so brutally in the Covid-19 pandemic. We

must fight to ensure that no person of color should ever again be threatened or killed just for being outside.

On November 3, we all have a critical role to play in ensuring that Nature for All becomes a reality in our region today and for generations to come. Our role is to VOTE in November's election. VOTE for an end to systemic racism and environmental injustice. VOTE for a return to environmental protections. VOTE to ensure all people feel safe and are safe outdoors. Together we will safeguard the future for ANS, our region and our nation. Together we will make Nature for All a reality. I am proud to do this vital work for healing and justice shoulder to shoulder with you.

Stay well, my friends, and be sure to find time to restore your spirit in nature.

Covid Update

First, thank you to our wonderful ANS members and supporters who came through with flying colors and enormous generosity as we faced the first stages of the pandemic crisis. Your incredible donations this summer enabled ANS to keep everyone on staff through the end of our fiscal year on August 31, 2020. We couldn't have done that without you! ANS members are fantastic!

As we head into the fall, our world remains profoundly altered and subject to change at a moment's notice. However, let's start with some good news that I am happy to share:

The Shop is now open for business 5 days a week, including pick-up and delivery of your birdseed, gifts and nature supplies. And event rentals have resumed, albeit with smaller groups in attendance.

For adult nature programs, I hope you'll tune into our Naturalist Hour programs (page 16) and register for small group field classes/outings for Sept-Oct (page 14) and garden programs (page 31). Check out page 26 for our new format for Natural History Field Studies classes. Unfortunately, Nature Travel trips remain grounded for the time-being.

For children, our preschool doors will remain closed this fall, but family programs delivered virtually will be offered. And we'll continue to provide outdoor education programs for children at Woodend. Kids and their parents will welcome that precious time outside in nature, especially with an all virtual back-to-school start. We will be delivering GreenKids environmental lessons online to our public school partners. And while many of our school educators will not be in classrooms in early autumn, we will hope to recall them to service soon.

Conservation Advocacy work is going strong despite the pandemic. You can play a role in monitoring water quality, seeking justice and protecting green space while social distancing. Check out ways to step up and be counted on page 10.

However, in addition to having to reduce our program schedule for the foreseeable future, ANS is also dealing with the fact that some longtime funders have pivoted away from supporting us in order to support those directly impacted by Covid. In response, ANS has had to consolidate some staff positions and sadly, eliminate a few. This is so difficult for us because the ANS staff is the heart of our mission work. We will rebuild our team and our programs just as soon as we are able.

Thank you again for your solidarity during these challenging times and for all you do to enable us to deliver on our mission to help people enjoy, learn about and protect nature during the pandemic. And be sure to VOTE in the November election (see page 10 for registration deadlines).

“The human race is challenged more than ever before to demonstrate our mastery, not over nature but of ourselves.” – Rachel Carson

Healing Our Land is an issue that was conceived to help us get closer to mastery of ourselves by first examining what we believe, why we believe it, and who benefits from this belief, and by pausing to give deeper thought to emerging historical truths. We want to examine our capacity to treat one another as brothers and sisters in this great human family of nature lovers, protectors, and advocates, and commit, in new and more forceful ways, to *Nature for All*. Thank you for joining us on this journey. We hope you’ll share what you think by emailing contact@anshome.org.

Caroline Brewer, Managing Editor, *The Naturalist Quarterly*

Francis Newlands, Racial Segregation, and the Land of Woodend

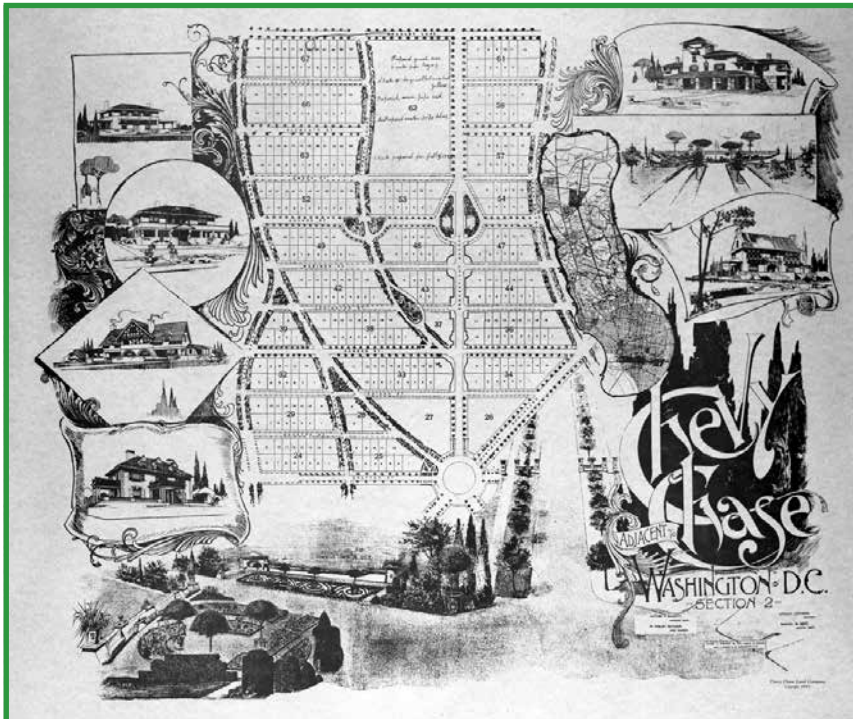
by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

What does a white supremacist, silver baron Senator from Nevada have to do with Woodend Nature Sanctuary? Quite a lot, it turns out.

Francis G. Newlands served Nevada in the Senate from 1893-1917. Newlands was also the founder and original developer of the Chevy Chase neighborhoods of Washington, DC and Maryland via his Chevy Chase Land Company. Newlands viewed African Americans as a “race of children,” and advocated for the repeal of the 15th amendment that granted all citizens the right to vote. For Newlands and his business partner, Senator William Stewart, an ideal neighborhood was one with convenient streetcar access to downtown, a country club, hotel, recreational lake, green space, charming homes, and segregationist property covenants forbidding sales to Blacks and Jews. A 1916 sales pamphlet told buyers, “The only restrictions imposed are those which experience has proven are necessary in any residential section to maintain or increase values and protect property holders against the encroachment of undesirable elements.”

Newlands and Stewart even had segregationist views about Rock Creek Park. They considered the park both an amenity for their new communities and a barrier to keep African Americans to the east, on the “wrong side of the park,” away from Chevy Chase. Woodend Nature Sanctuary sits at the northeast corner of today’s Chevy Chase, but the land’s segregationist past in no way defines the future we’ve planned for our headquarters.

Francis Newlands may have created suburban Chevy Chase in the late 1800s, but people lived on the land long before he arrived in Washington, from the Algonquian-speaking communities of Piscataway and Anacotchtank who lived here before English colonists arrived, to the Igbo-speaking enslaved Africans who were brought from the Windward and Gold Coasts to work in Maryland’s tobacco fields, to the Jones family of mill fame, and finally to the Wells family who laid out Woodend Sanctuary as a grand estate that was ultimately bequeathed to Audubon Naturalist Society.



In 2019, ANS released a documentary, [The Land of Woodend](#), which is now freely available online. The documentary explores the full history of the landscape where our headquarters is located and where generations of children have learned to love nature. As we work to restore Woodend for the future, you will be able to watch our principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility come to life. We are working hard to heal the natural landscape and at the same time build relationships with all of our region’s people, so that everyone has access to Nature for All. Please watch The Land of Woodend and let us know what you think on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Use the hashtag #LandofWoodend and be sure to tag us.

Check out these great resources to learn more about the history of Francis Newlands and Chevy Chase: [Historic Chevy Chase DC](#), [Washington Post](#)

Promotional street map of Chevy Chase, MD, created by the Chevy Chase Land Company originally in 1892. Shows Connecticut Avenue and Montgomery County to the north and DC to the south.

Facing Rock Creek Park's Dark Origins by Blazing New, More Inclusive Trails

by Jeanne Braha, Executive Director of the Rock Creek Conservancy and Alayna Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator



Jeanne Braha

Rock Creek has been a “wild home” for many of us, given the challenges we’ve all faced this year. Yet, unfortunately, not everyone always feels or is made to feel at home in outdoor spaces. Earlier this summer, a confrontation in Central Park showed that an easy trip to the park for many might be fraught with concern or danger for others. Amidst the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, it is terrifying to think that this could have been the outcome of that 911 call in Central Park. And we remember others like Ahmaud Arbery, who was killed while out for a run—something so many do in Rock Creek without a second thought.

These incidents are tied to the deep, racist history of this country, which also expresses itself in our modern environmental movement. People of color have frequently been excluded from access to green spaces, and, for many, there is a perceived lack of belonging as a result.

Rock Creek Park has a complicated history, serving (purposely or not) from its conception as a dividing barrier between predominantly black and predominantly white communities in D.C. While communities east and west of Rock Creek Park are no longer as binary as when the park was established in 1890, there remains a significant difference between the two areas. The east side of Rock Creek Park remains significantly less welcoming to visitors than the west, with fewer trails and formal entry points.

Moreover, early in the park’s planning and administration, park regulations were set by people appointed by elected officials voted into office by mostly privileged white and wealthy residents. These policies included advising park police to “use discretion” regarding when and where - and against whom - rules were enforced, and segregating the use of picnic tables and other facilities.

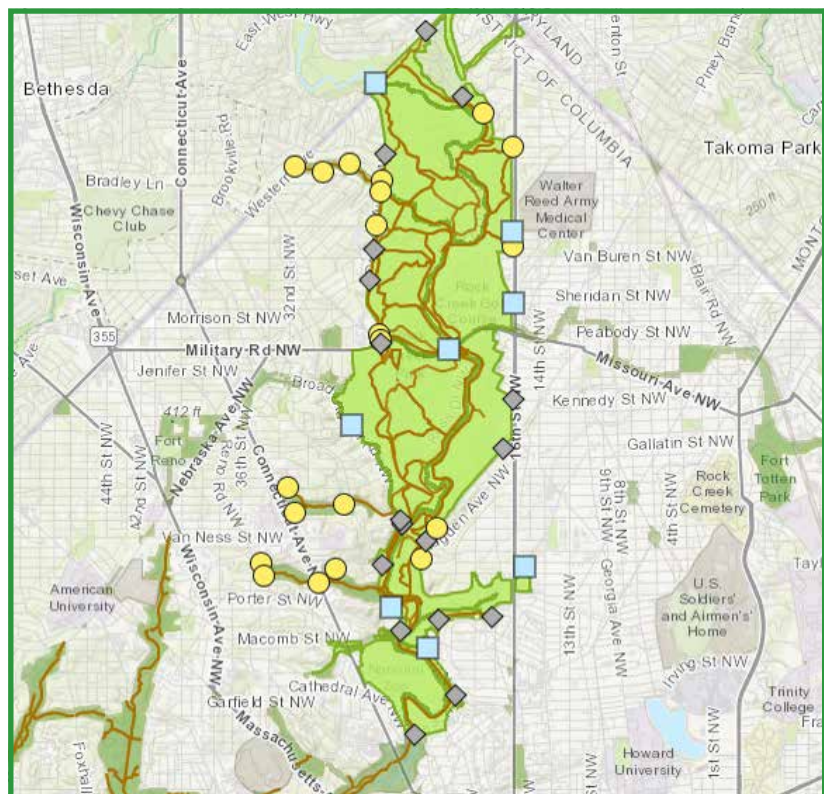
Rock Creek should be a space where we come together to celebrate our common values: clean air, clean water, justice, access to nature. The first step to reconciling this is to discuss it.

Rock Creek Conservancy, with the National Park Service (NPS) and other partners, will be wrestling with this legacy through a *Racial History of Northern DC* series examining segregation, gentrification, enslavement, reconstruction, civil rights demonstrations, and more.

As a part of this series, Dr. Chris Myers Asch, co-author of *Chocolate City*, joined Rock Creek Conservancy [virtually on August 6](#) to discuss the history of D.C.’s Black communities and the park’s role as a segregator. Asch offered this directive for progress: “You have to go out of your way to make people feel welcome, because people went out of their way to exclude them.”

This sentiment affirms the direction of the Conservancy’s work, embedding a lens of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in every decision we make. In partnership with NPS and generous donors, we will erect new signage on the east side of the park to increase wayfinding and access. Those who are not familiar with the trail system or park opportunities will literally be greeted with a map to welcome them. We also host summer programming to engage youth of color historically disconnected from the park. Many of these youth go on to study environmental science in college or become avid users of and ambassadors for Rock Creek to their peers.

The Conservancy is also heartened to see discussion around consideration of renaming park resources that honor dishonorable individuals. We appreciate the leadership of our elected officials in supporting those changes that require Congressional action. We look forward to working with all of them—and you—to continue finding ways to unite our communities and to lift up those who are doing this important work.



This Rock Creek Park map illustrates the entry points for visitors via mode of transportation. Yellow is for pedestrians. Blue is for automobiles. Purple is for both.

Healing our Landscapes: Passage of the Great American Outdoors Act

by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

From the Dakota Badlands to the cathedral of Yosemite to Rock Creek Park and the Frederick Douglass House, the nation has chosen to honor those places most important to our heritage and communal senses of identity through the National Park Service, US Forest Service, and our other public lands. We have also chosen to protect vast acreages of marshes and deserts, forests and tundras, canyons and rivers that provide refuge to wildlife and native plants. Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the 1960s to fund the maintenance and acquisition of protected lands, but it has been fully funded (\$900 million dollars) in only one year of its entire existence, and the National Park system now has a \$12 billion maintenance backlog (a backlog that balloons to \$22 billion when you fold in other public land agencies).

In 2019, Congress finally, permanently reauthorized the LWCF, and just this past summer, passed the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) to provide dedicated, permanent public lands funding every year and to put \$9.5 billion over the next five years towards the maintenance backlog. The Act was passed with huge bipartisan majorities in both houses, and signed by President Trump. The funds will come from oil and gas drilling revenues from federal lands and waters, including offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. One day soon we'll need to keep that oil and gas in the ground and find a more sustainable way to fund our public lands, but that will be another political decision for the next group of leaders. Today, there are millions of Americans without access to nature and green space near their homes due to environmental injustice. ANS will support spending some of that new LWCF money to increase access to green space for underserved communities, action that would be particularly healing in this era of Covid-19.

Permanently reauthorizing and funding the LWCF, and cutting the maintenance backlog, are generational political achievements. Advocates have been working to build consensus for these decisions for more than two decades. And it hasn't just been hikers and bird watchers: according to Marcia Argust, Director of Restore America's Parks at the Pew Charitable Trust, "We're not just talking about conservation groups. We're talking about infrastructure groups. We're talking about tribes, veterans groups, the US Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, faith groups." (See [Federal News Network](#))

Visionary elected officials, like House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) who has championed the LWCF for years, and Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Cory Gardner (R-CO) who co-sponsored the GAOA, can inspire others and build the framework for conservation. But as the decades-long fight to pass the Great American Outdoors Act shows, they need us to push them, support them, vote for them, and applaud them when they get it right. They got it right this time, in a huge victory for our region and our local delegation! All the [Senators](#) and nearly every [Representative](#), in DC, MD, and VA voted for the GAOA.

Please contact your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) and thank them for passing the Great American Outdoors Act and permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund. And please, pass on the message to Congress that we need to make sure that part of this new funding prioritizes access to nature for those who have been long denied.



Harpers Ferry, WV. Rafters on the Potomac River where it meets the Shenandoah. Photo Credit: Will Parsons, Chesapeake Bay Program.

Redlining: The Legacy of Wealth and Systemic Racial Discrimination in our Land

by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation



In the first half of the 20th century, huge federal investments and analyses shaped the post-war housing boom as America's white middle class built wealth through land and home ownership. Access to federally subsidized loans, homeowners' insurance products, and public housing were in many ways explicitly shaped by race.

Redlining was a practice of the Federal Home Owners Loan Corporation that "graded" areas of cities according to factors including "infiltration of Negroes."

People living in lower-graded areas were denied both mortgages by banks and subsidized Federal Housing Administration insurance products. Victims of redlining were forced to live with racially restrictive housing deeds and covenants and segregated schools and playgrounds. Black and other families of color in the Washington, DC region were effectively forced to remain as renters in substandard housing.

The map below shows Residential Sub-Areas graded according to the Federal Housing Administration in the Washington region in 1937 (In this illustration, the darker the shaded area, the higher the rating). [Click here to read the full descriptions for each grade](#), many of which are racially explicit. For example, Type A areas contain houses "appealing to the highest type of occupants," and Type H areas "represent the negro developments and the lowest grade of residential area...the only possible future... is that the present scattered structures may be razed and new planned subdivisions instituted in their place."

By the end of 1960, Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George's County received seven times the amount of federal mortgage insurance than Washington, DC. Today, according to an Urban Institute study, white households in Washington, DC have a net worth 81 times greater than Black households – an enormous wealth gap that can be traced to discriminatory housing and land use policies.

There is no simple fix to this problem—it will require a mix of strong affordable housing policies, zoning changes, green infrastructure projects, consumer finance rule changes, and more. Conceived broadly, many of these policies go by the name "reparations." Reparations for American slavery have been discussed for decades, but a [2014 Atlantic article by Ta-Nehisi Coates](#) catapulted the issue into mainstream policy discussions.

Richard Rothstein, author of "The Color of Law," had a [recent piece in the New York Times](#) arguing that modern banks, successors to the corporate beneficiaries and enforcers of residential segregation, should reinvest in those same families who were previously excluded from neighborhoods because of discriminatory mortgage financing.

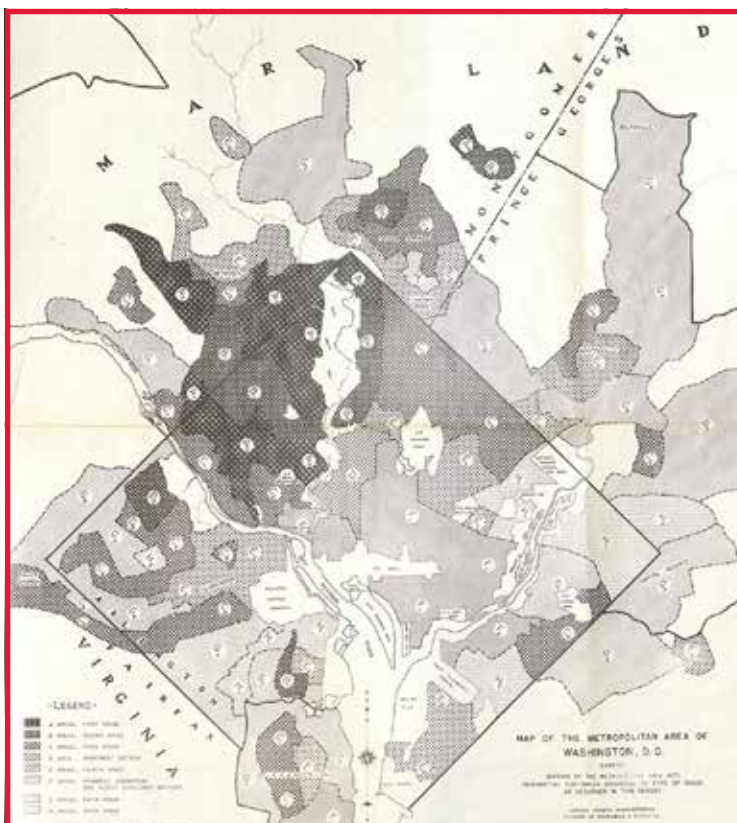
ANS's new [Conservation Priorities](#) outline the role we will play in helping to heal the effects of discrimination in things like the access to land, healthy environments and natural places in the Washington DC area. We are thinking deeply, and learning from our partners, about how best to advocate for Human Health and Access to Nature, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Land Use in communities still affected by the negative legacy of redlining today, decades after the practice was legally abolished.

We will urge our elected officials to think deeply, too, as new opportunities to heal the effects of systemic racism on peoples' ability to benefit from land ownership, live in neighborhoods with clean air and clean water, and safely access natural places in our region. We will continue to share ideas and support conversations and actions rooted in justice. **A great first place to start is with our September, October, and November Conservation Cafés (p. 9), where we will discuss equity and sustainability in cities and the legacy of discrimination in the environmental movement. Join us!**

Map and information thanks to the project "[Mapping segregation in Washington DC](#)" and the [D.C. Policy Center](#).

"The [companies and banks] could not have segregated Hillside without the support of government agencies. In fact, in some cases, federal agencies required builders...to insert the racial clause in deeds."

- Richard Rothstein, *New York Times*



Conservation



"It is not only a sin to kill a mockingbird, it is a crime..."



ANS Policy and Advocacy News

Regional/National

Courts Push Back on Bad Bird Rule: Victory! In August, a federal judge in New York overturned the Trump administration's terrible rule changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that would have allowed individuals and business to kill thousands of birds as long as that was not the primary purpose of their operation. The Trump rule was a particular give away to energy companies that kill birds in oil pits and oil spills by electrocution, collision with infrastructure, entanglement in nets, and more. Judge Caproni wrote in her decision, "It is not only a sin to kill a mockingbird, it is also a crime. That has been the letter of the law for the past century." We agree!

Maryland

Action Alert: Submit your Comments on the Beltway & I-270 Draft Environmental Impact Statement now! Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration have released the Managed Lanes (I-495 and I-270 up to I-370) Draft Environmental Impact Statement and is accepting comments until October 8, 2020. Learn more on how you can submit your comments or sign up to testify at: http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/beltway_deis/

Action Alert: Comment on the Thrive 2050 Working Draft Plan! The MoCo Planning Department will be releasing the Working Draft of the New General Plan in late September with a public hearing scheduled in November. Please sign up for our Free Thrive at ANS event where Montgomery County Planners will go over the newly released Thrive Working Draft Plan on October 28 from 6-7:30 pm. <https://anshome.org/events/thrive-2050-at-ans-2/>

D.C.

ANS Hosts Stakeholder Meeting with DC Green Bank CEO: On Friday, August 7, ANS hosted a meeting with the new DC Green Bank CEO, Eli Hopson, and community leaders from across DC to talk about the Green Bank's plans to equitably expand renewable energy, lower energy costs, and create green jobs. ANS will continue to partner with environmental, neighborhood, and community groups to make sure that the Green Bank is a tool for furthering environmental justice. Learn more about the Bank here: <https://dcgreenbank.org/>

EPA Considers DC Water's Rock Creek Green Infrastructure

Assessment: As part of the Clean Rivers project to prevent sewer overflows into local waterways in the District of Columbia, DC Water assessed whether to rely on green infrastructure, gray infrastructure, or a combination of both to keep sewage out of streams and rivers. ANS is working with partners to review the Assessment and ensure that DC Water prioritizes water quality, climate benefits, and ratepayer affordability. Learn more here: <https://www.dewater.com/green-infrastructure>



The Piney Branch combined sewer outfall (CSO) in Rock Creek Park. DC Water is proposing a combination of green (i.e. rain gardens) and gray (i.e. tunnels) infrastructure to eliminate sewer overflows into Rock Creek. Photo by Ari Eisenstadt.

Conservation



Virginia

Development Approved Atop North Fork of Accotink Creek. In partnership with the Friends of Accotink Creek and dozens of residents of the City of Fairfax, ANS opposed the recently approved Northfax West redevelopment project. This project will remove nearly 5 acres of Resource Protection Area and forest, with demolition set for early 2021. 1,600 feet of the North Fork of Accotink Creek will forever be buried instead of keeping the healthiest portion of the stream as a community asset. ANS is disappointed in this outcome, but the coalition we assembled will continue to fight so that other headwaters of Accotink Creek won't suffer a similar fate in the City. This photo (right) of a northern two-lined salamander found in the stream at Northfax West was taken by ANS Virginia Advocate Renee Grebe. Learn more about what happened at <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/save-north-fork-of-accotink-creek>



Online Workshops & Events

Learn more and register for all events below at <https://anshome.org/conservation-events>

- **HOAs and Condo Associations: Planning and Managing Common Open Space** Friday, September 25 & Saturday, October 24 (1-4 pm)
Join ANS, Plant NOVA Natives, and our Loudoun partners for an engaging session on ecologically sustainable community master planning and land management in Loudoun County. (All are welcome)
- **Conservation Advocacy 101 for HOAs and Condo Associations** Tuesday, September 29 (7-8:30pm) \$10-\$20
We can act locally in our own communities to create change. Learn how you can make a difference. You'll get a chance to think about your own community, participate in breakout discussions, and develop your own action plan.
- **Panel: Climate Crisis on Your Block: What Does Climate Change Look Like in the DMV** Monday, October 5 (7-8:30 pm)
In this panel discussion and Q&A with local experts, we'll look at how to spot the signs of climate change in your neighborhood. Learn what you can do today about climate change on your block. Pay what you can to attend.
- **Couch Advocacy 101 Workshop** Tuesday, November 10 (7-8:30 pm)
You'll learn how to advocate for environmental justice at the intersection between Covid-19 and climate change, and how to make your voice heard by local government. Breakout sessions will give you time to drill into key local issues and strategies.
- **Make Your Voice Heard! Participate in Montgomery County Thrive 2050** Wednesday, October 28 (6-7:30 pm)
In September, Montgomery Planning will release the next working draft of Thrive 2050, the General Plan update for the county. Please join us to talk with Planning staff, learn about Thrive 2050, and share your own input into the plan.
- **Live in Loudoun County? Learn to lead conservation projects in your HOA or condo association!** (dates coming soon!)
Join us this fall for our new Loudoun County program, Greening Your Neighborhood. You'll participate in two ½-day workshops, tour green infrastructure projects, and commit to a conservation project in your community. You'll learn how to lead ecological change. Master Naturalists earn CE credits. Pre-register: <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/loudoun-county/>

Virtual Conservation Cafes

Join us online for inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Your \$5-15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! See detailed descriptions and register at anshome.org/conservation-cafe. All programs run from 7-8:30 pm.



- **Thursday, September 17: Transforming our Cities: Imagining a Future of Equity and Sustainability.** With Maisie Hughes, Co-Founder and Board Treasurer of The Urban Studio, and Senior Director of Urban Forestry at American Forests.
- **Thursday, October 8: Grappling with Racism, Diversity, and Justice in the Environmental Movement.** Gabrielle Roffe (Manager of Equity and Community Engagement at Chesapeake Conservancy) will moderate this in-depth, engaging conversation with experts Chanté Coleman (VP of Equity and Justice at National Wildlife Federation) and Ruby Rivera (Conservation Partnerships Manager at The Nature Conservancy's Global Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team).
- **Thursday, November 12: Special November Café featuring the authors and subjects of this issue's stories - Healing People and the Environment Post-Election.** Hear from Beatra Wilson (National Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager, US Forest Service) and Jeanne Braha (Executive Director, Rock Creek Conservancy) about what the world looks like now and our needs and hopes for healing.



Get Out and Vote for People and Nature!

by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation



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As the stories in this issue tell over and over again, the people we elect to represent us matter. They make promises while they campaign, we elect them based on those promises, and then we hold them to account to fulfill what they said they would do. Ensuring a healthy environment for people and wildlife in the face of a changing climate requires all hands on deck. This year, the pandemic is changing the way we vote. Be sure you research your candidates and then use the resources below to vote. You have the option of voting early or by mail (send it in ASAP so you don't risk postal delays). However you do it—just be sure to vote on November 3 or before! Each jurisdiction will have in-person voting available November 3. Visit our blog at <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/gotv/> for more details on each jurisdiction.

Maryland

[Registration](#)

- Registration deadline: October 13. Same-day registration also allowed.

[Voting](#)

- Deadline to request mail-in ballot: October 20.
- Deadline to postmark [mail-in ballot](#): November 3.
- Deadline for mailed-in ballot to be received by Board of Elections: November 13.
- Early voting: Monday, October 26 - Monday, November 2. Each early voting center will be open continuously from 7 am to 8 pm each day.
- Voting will not be in your usual precincts on Election Day, but at [voting centers](#) throughout your county.

Virginia

[Registration](#)

- Registration deadline: October 13.

[Voting](#)

- You can vote before election day via [in-person early voting or mail-in \(absentee\) voting](#) or on election day in-person. Note: If this is your first time voting, you must vote in-person.
- Deadline to request absentee ballot: October 23.
- Deadline to postmark mail-in ballot: November 3.
- Deadline for mailed-in ballot to be received by local general registrar: November 6.
- Early voting: Saturday, September 19 (or Friday, September 18 if your Registrar isn't open on a Saturday) -- Saturday, October 31, 2020.

Washington, DC

[Registration](#)

- Registration deadline: October 13. Same-day registration also allowed.

[Voting](#)

- Every registered DC voter will be mailed a ballot beginning the first week of October. You can drop it off at one of the [Mail Ballot Drop Sites](#) or mail it back.
- Deadline to postmark mail-in ballot: November 3.
- Deadline for mailed-in ballot to be received by Board of Elections: November 13.
- [Early Voting](#): Tuesday, October 27 - Monday, November 2.

Get In! Get Out! Get Results! –Advocacy Advice from a Capitol Hill Veteran

by Lisa Goodnight

Capitol Hill Veteran and Author [Chonya Johnson](#) knows the power of the vote and advocacy. In 9th grade, she was selected for an after-school program designed to help teens achieve their potential.



“It was a safe haven. We did our homework. We got a snack,” she said, recalling with fondness the particular National Urban League program. “It showed me that someone cares. Drugs and crime were running rampant, (and I was fortunate), I didn’t have to walk the streets of New Orleans.”

Johnson sees her youth experience as a great example of how advocates can make a powerful difference in the world. She grew into a 20-year career of helping others speak for themselves and their communities working on Capitol Hill for six different members of Congress, including Maryland’s Rep. Steny Hoyer. The environment figured into her work, as she recalled helping representatives push for more funding for national trails and improvements to parks.

Johnson continues assisting voters in lifting their voices today as a consultant through her presentations and writings. The author of *5 Minute Advocate: Access Granted Get In! Get Out! Get Results!*, gave us an exclusive interview and offered tips for being an effective advocate:

- 1. Be the ambassador advocate.** Lawmakers can only make good decisions with good information. “Most people have information but you have to own it,” she said. A transportation official, for example, can talk about a traffic problem based on their occasional observation but a person who lives near the problem or drives by it daily is also a “trusted resource.”
- 2. Be willing to ask probing questions.** Ask an elected official what is his/her agenda regarding the environmental priorities in your area. It’s a way of finding common ground and looking for “the win-win.”
- 3. Be persistent.** Spending \$1,000 on a lobby day and not following up will not lead to victory. Constituents need to understand that introducing a bill is only the beginning. Getting things done in Congress is like driving to a destination and then being rerouted. A bill may get introduced but then language changes or it may not even make it to the floor for a vote. Your voice needs to be heard “every step of the way” to improve your chances of success.

On the 100th Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage, Honoring African American Women Suffragists

You probably know the story of how women across the nation formed Audubon Societies and secured passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act even before they had the right to vote. What you may not know are the remarkable stories of African American women who helped to secure that right to vote for all.

A leading example is Sojourner Truth, who could not read or write but summoned the courage in the morning light to take her infant and walk to freedom, away from the plantation that equated her life with that of horses and cattle. This was the first of many bold moves this soon-to-be abolitionist, suffragist, and speaker would make during her lifetime. The systemic cruelty and violence suffered by African American women like Truth inspired their advocacy for the right to vote. Even in the face of racism by some members of the mainstream suffragist movement, black women labored, marched, spoke, and gave their all to securing the vote through their own organizations and in partnership with white-led groups.

In addition to the well-known Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Ida B. Wells, take note of these suffragists worthy of celebrating on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, courtesy of the [National Museum of African American History and Culture](#).

“Lifting as we climb ... we knock at the bar of justice, asking an equal chance.”

Mary Church Terrell (1863-1954)

“Now is the time for our women to begin to try to lift up their heads and plant the roots of progress under the hearthstone.”

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825-1911)

“The crowning glory of American citizenship is that it may be shared equally by people of every nationality, complexion, and sex.”

Mary-Ann Shadd Cary (1823-1893)

“When the ballot is put into the hands of the American woman, the world is going to get a correct estimate of the Negro woman. It will find her a tower of strength of which poets have never sung, orators have never spoken, and scholars have never written.”

Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879-1961)



Photo of a young Nannie Helen Burroughs, courtesy of the Library of Congress.

As you prepare to vote this November, it is fitting to remember these brave African-American women who fought so hard to ensure that all of us can cast a ballot and be counted. For more, the [National Park Service dedicates space](#) to telling the hidden history of these remarkable women. You can also visit the Smithsonian’s online exhibit [The Bold Accomplishments of Women of Color Need to be a Bigger Part of the Suffrage History](#).

Camp Audubon



Summer Camp

Thank you for a great (and socially distant) summer! We are already thinking and planning for next summer! Tell your friends - **Friday, December 4** is the last date to become an ANS member eligible for members-only registration on Wednesday, January 20 at 10 am. Registration will open to nonmembers on Saturday, January 23 at 10 am. Catalogs will be mailed in late December. Follow Camp Audubon on Facebook for registration updates.



Don't miss out on this year's blue crab camp t-shirt! Order online through our shop at www.anshome.org/shop.



The sons of Audubon Preschool Director Stephanie Bozzo are pictured outside enjoying the new, huge, sanded and sealed "tree cookies" Eagle Scout Mark Anderson made for the Preschoolers' "loose parts" bin. They are standing in front of a fabulous shed Eagle Scout Dane Fedowitz built for the Preschool last year.



A camper proudly displays a leopard slug while in the fort area at Audubon Adventures in mid-August. Photo by Ben Israel.

Children and Nature Photos



A camper takes in the sights of Woodend from up on a tree branch during Audubon Camp's Audubon Adventures camp in July (prior to Governor Hogan's outdoor mask mandate). Photo by Nora Kelly.

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.
- Want to become an ANS member and get the member rate? Join at the same time you register for a program.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org

Fall Birding Series

- A. Saturday, September 12: Blue Mash Nature Trail, MD (Mark England) (7-9:30 am)**
- B. Wednesday, September 16: ANS Woodend Sanctuary, MD (Mike Bowen) (7-9:30 am)**
- C. Saturday, September 19: Dyke Marsh, VA (Lisa Shannon) (7:30-10 am)**
- D. Sunday, September 27: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Paul Pisano) (8-10:30 am)**
- E. Sunday, October 4: Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA (Cathy Stragar) (8-10:30 am)**
- F. Saturday, October 17: Lois Green Conservation Park, MD (Mike Bowen) (8-10:30 am)**
- G. Wednesday, October 21: Black Hill Regional Park, MD (Mark England) (8-10:30 am)**
- H. Sunday, October 25: Hughes Hollow, MD (Len Bisson) (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.* Several November trips will be added to the schedule in early October. *Sorry, but we are unable to offer a series discount this season.* [REGISTER](#)

Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers

Saturday, September 12 (8:30-11:30 am)
Leader: Stephanie Mason
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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 and fruiting trees and shrubs. *Expect a walk of around 2 miles with a small amount of uphill and downhill, some of it under open and sunny conditions.* [REGISTER](#)

COVID-19 Update Adult Nature Programs

As long as area jurisdictions remain in at least Phase II of Covid 19 precautions, we are planning to offer in-person field trips to natural areas throughout the DMV. Should there be any changes to these plans, we will notify trip participants and all ANS members through e-mails and/or social media.

- Both leaders and participants are required to wear [face masks](#) and observe [social distancing](#) throughout the field trip.
- Both leaders and participants are required to complete a [health questionnaire](#) before participating in the field trip.
- [Maximum number of participants for the field trips will range from 5-8](#), depending on field trip location, trip focus, and leaders' preferences.
- Our fall schedule of field outings will be updated every six weeks to add new listings farther out into November—and then December. This "rolling schedule" will help us respond to any changes in the Covid situation which may arise as late fall and winter arrive.

Fern Basics

Sunday, September 13 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

What makes a plant a fern? What are some of the common ferns in our area? And importantly, how can you start to tell them apart? Here's your chance to spend some time in the woods of Rachel Carson Conservation Park, MD, with the naturalist who delivered last month's Naturalist Hour talk on these ancient and beautiful plants. *Expect a little over a 2-mile hike, with some mild uphill/downhill as we search for and learn to recognize more a half-dozen species.* [REGISTER](#)

Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 16 – Riley's Lock

B: September 23 – Riley's Lock

C: September 30 – Carderock

D: October 7 – Carderock

E: October 14 – Violettes Lock

F: October 21 – Violettes Lock

G: October 28 – Pennyfield Lock

H: November 4 – 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. Several November Meanders will be added to this schedule in early October. *Sorry, but we are unable to offer a series discount this season. Thanks for registering for only one walk per field site.* [REGISTER](#)

Fall Fungus Walks

A. Saturday, September 19 (9-11 am)

B. Friday, October 9 (9:30-11:30 am)

Each walk: 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. Each session's outdoor classroom will be our own Woodend Sanctuary, where trails will be natural surface and possibly muddy. The expert leader will be 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.* [REGISTER](#)

Butterfly Migrants of the Glendening Preserve

Sunday, September 20 (10 am-12:30 pm)

Rain Date: Sunday, September 27

Leader: Tom Stock

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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. [REGISTER](#)

Talking Trees Tours

A: Tuesday, September 22 (10-11:30 am)

B: Sunday, October 11 (2-3:30 pm)

C: Tuesday, October 27 (10-11:30 am)

Leader: Bradley Simpson

Each tour: members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Actually, it will be our leader who will do the talking for the trees on these leisurely strolls at our Woodend Sanctuary. A staffer on our restoration team, Bradley will introduce you to some of the notable trees on our grounds, while sharing ID tips, as well as wildlife and tree associations. *Expect some uneven and/or muddy ground on this walking (and talking) tree tour, which will generally cover the same terrain and tree species each time.* [REGISTER](#)

Fall Flora Fridays

Fridays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 25 - Rock Creek Park, DC

B: October 9 - Little Bennett Park, MD

C: October 30 - Riverbend Park, VA

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

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

These walks of up to 1.5 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 C.* [REGISTER](#)

Get details on more October programs (Fall in the Parks, Intro to Tree ID, and Forest Bathing at Woodend) at www.anshome.org/adults



@ANSNature



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 Saturday of the same week. **Cost is \$12 for ANS members and \$15 for nonmembers.**

Wildlife, Phenology and Climate Change: It's All About Timing

Tuesday, September 8 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Clare Walker, PhD, Irvine Nature Center

The life cycles of native plants and animals are intricately connected to each other and dependent on seasonal events. For example, bees emerge from underground burrows just when the plants they need flower. We will look at some of these local relationships and how climate change is already impacting species in Maryland. [REGISTER](#)

Native Orchids In and Out of the Garden

Wednesday, September 9 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Carol Allen, Botanist and Owner of Poplar Hill Horticultural Services



Photo by Carol Allen

Finding native orchids while out hiking on a spring day is the ultimate bliss! Finding those same orchids at a nursery or on the internet makes you wonder. Have they been wild collected? Have they been artificially propagated? Can I grow them in my landscape? The answer is sometimes yes and sometimes no! Take a walk with Carol in the woods and in the garden to find out. [REGISTER](#)

Learn to Speak with Confidence about Climate Change

Thursday, September 10 (1-2 pm)

Coreen Weilmminster, Education Coordinator, Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, MD Department of Natural Resources

Learn to speak effectively, accurately, and confidently about climate change. Explore social factors that influence opinions, beliefs, and perceptions of climate change and consider values, solutions and framing conversations (as well as the use of art) as a means to empathy and its influence in connecting climate science to action. [REGISTER](#)



Murder Hornets, Varroa Mites and Snakeheads: Invasive Species and the Reality of our Global Ecosystem

Monday, September 14 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Samuel Ramsey, PhD, Entomologist at vanEngelsdorp's Lab, University of Maryland

Murder hornets, fire ants, varroa mites, snakehead fish, feral pigs, brown marmorated stinkbugs, Japanese knotweed! A host of organisms now call our ecosystem home and we're just beginning to realize the broader impacts of these invasions. North America has also exported nuisances of our own to rest of the world. Learn what makes a species likely to invade and what individual behaviors and policies can prevent invasions and address their aftermath. [REGISTER](#)

Swimming Fungi: Lifesavers in Freshwater

Tuesday, September 15 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Huzefa Raja, PhD, Research Scientist Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Learn about the taxonomy and geographical distribution of freshwater-dwelling fungi in the phylum Ascomycota, as well as their applications in potentially life-saving drug discoveries. [REGISTER](#)

The Lichen Lifestyle: It's More Complex than You Think

Wednesday, September 16 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Manuela Dal Forno, PhD, Research Botanist, Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth, TX

The lichen lifestyle is about more than hanging out on rocks. Lichens are busy working in most terrestrial ecosystems as colonizers, food sources, nitrogen fixers, and more. And their family life is pretty hectic, too! These complex symbiotic units involve a fungal partner, a green algal and/or a cyanobacterial partner, along with a diverse community of microorganisms. [REGISTER](#)

The More You Anole: A Rainbow of Reptile Diversity

Tuesday, September 22 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Chelsea Connor, Midwestern State University Herpetology Student, Science Communicator

Anoles are known for their diversity and adaptability. These highly variable lizards are capable of adapting to a variety of habitats, even in a single tree. We will explore those adaptations and anole habitat types while highlighting several of the 436 recognized anole species. [REGISTER](#)

Save Tropical Forests and Drink Your Coffee, Too

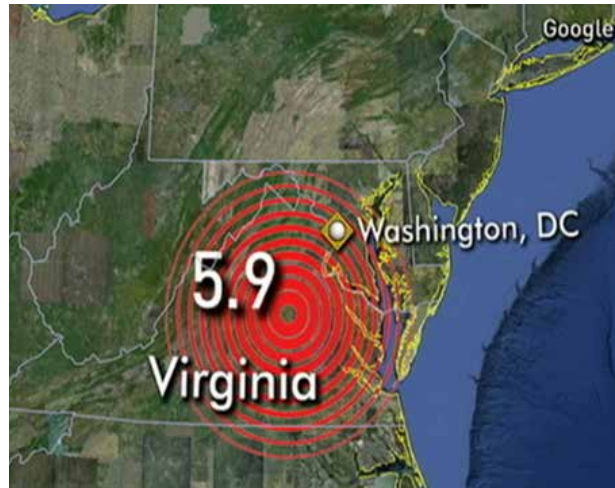
Wednesday, September 23 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Priscila Chaverri, PhD, University of Costa Rica and University of Maryland, Mycology Professor

The livelihoods of thousands of families depend on coffee production in Latin America. Climate change has had a negative impact on this crop by making coffee plants susceptible to diseases and drought. But researchers are exploring "probiotics" found in old-growth tropical forest trees that could protect the coffee plants, the communities that depend on them, and your morning cup of Joe. [REGISTER](#)



Photo by Edwin Remsberg



Washington's 2011 Earthquake: How Could It Happen Here?

Thursday, September 24 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Joe Marx, Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), Adjunct Instructor in Geology

Many people (including the presenter) were surprised at the duration and strength of the earthquake that struck central Virginia on August 23, 2011, damaging structures in the DC area. Learn about the results of the extensive geologic investigations into the causes of the event and their implications. [REGISTER](#)

When a Tree Falls: The Fascinating Afterlife of Wood

Wednesday, September 30 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Amy Zanne, PhD, George Washington University, Associate Professor and Ecologist

Explore the roles of microbes, insects, solar radiation and fire in the breakdown of the trunks and stems that store much of the carbon on Earth. From the tropical rainforests of Australia to the oak forests of the Pyrenees, Dr. Zanne has studied the complex ecology of wood decay around the world. Learn about the interplay between the structure of wood itself and the remarkably diverse community of organisms that takes it apart. [REGISTER](#)



**Join us for
October
Naturalist Hour
Programs!**

Descriptions and registration info available
at anshome.org/naturalist-hour



Adults and Nature Photos

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Joe Saliunas and Bethany Drehman, along with other students in the 2019 Fall Training in the Maryland Master Naturalist program, enjoyed the sights of the big meadow at Woodend Sanctuary during the outdoor part of class. Photograph by Ben Israel.



After walking in the meadow with instructor Sujata Roy, Maryland Master Naturalists gathered in the conference room to study herbaceous plant specimens. Photo by Ben Israel.



A participant in the Sunrise Meditation and Walk in the Woods at Woodend Sanctuary during the Taking Nature Black conference in February searches for plants in the wintry forest. Photo by Cheriss May.



Geary Mizuno, volunteer Maryland Master Naturalist, walks through the forest at Woodend Sanctuary during a deer drive in November 2019. (No deer at Woodend Sanctuary today!) Photo by Ben Israel.

Partner Profile



Vanesa Pinto: One Star in the Long Branch Constellation

By Denisse Guitarra and Gregg Trilling

Vanesa Pinto is a woman who has journeyed across many shores to be who she is today - a wife, mother, and the Empowerment and Leadership Development Program Coordinator at Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research (CHEER). For CHEER, Vanesa organizes all programming involving community building and networks of support in Long Branch, MD. We met and began working with Vanesa when CHEER became one of ANS's Long Branch project partners in 2019.

Vanesa was born in Bolivia and led a comfortable life as a government accountant when she began experiencing a "feeling of urgency" – a need to embark on a journey toward a more meaningful career.

She enrolled in advanced English classes and in 2001, moved to Florida where she studied for a year before relocating to Maryland to pursue a teaching position. Unable to find a teaching job, Vanesa worked as a cashier to support herself, met and married her husband, and started a family.

When Vanessa was pregnant with her daughter, she learned about the YMCA Linkages to Learning Program which was based in the local elementary school and began attending gatherings of mothers "café-citos," spaces where information and resources are shared. There, Vanesa saw the critical needs of her community and realized she had a skill set to offer. Through Linkages to Learning, she began teaching Spanish literacy and computer classes to empower other parents. Vanesa soon found herself organizing for her own Long Branch community. She wants people to understand that while there are serious needs to be addressed in Long Branch, finding solutions begins with recognizing the talents offered by those who've made Long Branch

their home. Vanesa looks to community members as her primary teachers and as invaluable sources of ideas and perspectives. She firmly believes in helping community members realize their own power.

In 2019, ANS was awarded a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant to conduct an environmental knowledge-building and outreach project with a largely immigrant population in Long Branch, Maryland. Vanesa helped lead the partnership but admitted that she and others, including CHEER's Executive Director, wondered if their audiences would be interested in ANS's brand of environmental outreach and education. CHEER's staff was impressed with how ANS Conservation Director Eliza Cava expressed "a genuine interest" in the community. ANS took the approach of defining the project goals based on input from community stakeholders. Our engagement included field trips to streams within the watershed, meetings for community members with parks and planning staff, and even a bilingual dancing nature walk. A year later, Vanesa is pleased to report that community members are now more curious about their stream valley park and look for ways to protect the environment. Perhaps even more important, people want to experience how it feels to advocate for a cause and to have their voices heard, especially now, since Long Branch has been hard-hit by COVID. Currently, Vanesa is leading a food distribution site with a team of community members who will help distribute food to more than 150 families. To learn more about CHEER, visit: <https://www.communitycheer.org/>

If you are interested in learning from Latinx community leaders like Vanesa, please join us for ANS's 3rd Naturally Latinos Conference, December 2-4, 2020. This year's theme is "Una Comunidad, Many Voices," which speaks to the intersectional nature of the Latinx community and environmental advocacy that supports both humans and wildlife. Sign-up for conference updates at <https://anshome.org/conferences/>



Long Branch families learning about invasive species with ANS Naturalist Gina Ghertner.

Photo by Eliza Cava

Stream Science

For more than 25 years, the Audubon Naturalist Society has been teaching the natural history of aquatic ecology and training volunteer stream monitors to track the health of our region's streams. We are not offering introductory stream science classes this fall, but they will return in the winter. In the meantime, please check out all the great news about our Creek Critters® app below, and learn about how our macroinvertebrate and bacteria monitors are staying safe with masks and social distancing. For questions about our monitoring programs, please contact cleanstreams@anshome.org

More News on CREEK CRITTERS®!

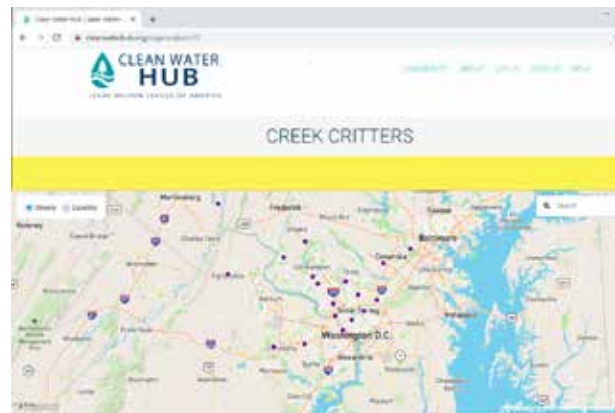
ANS released an **updated version of our CREEK CRITTERS® app** in May. The update is available as a free download in the Apple App Store or Google Play. Visit your local stream and give it a try.

Introducing **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!

ANS is forging ahead with our partnership with the Izaak Walton League of America to use CREEK CRITTERS® to engage and educate people in our region and beyond. CREEK CRITTERS® stream health reports are being uploaded to the IWLA Clean Water Hub. To view stream reports, visit: <https://www.cleanwaterhub.org/>



Same Streams, Different Boots



In September, **Cathy Wiss** will transition out of her role as Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, a position we have had to sadly eliminate due to Covid funding challenges (see p 3). The good news is that Cathy will remain involved with ANS by continuing to serve as a volunteer water quality monitoring team leader, and we're happy to report she's interested in continuing to teach Stream Science classes. We are so thankful for Cathy's dedication and hard work as the program's coordinator over the past 12 years, during which she streamlined the WQM program, standardized and updated its quality assurance protocols, digitized our reporting to government agencies, and helped lead the fight to Save Ten Mile Creek. Cathy has already taught hundreds of students about stream ecology and macroinvertebrates and even starred on TV when our DC Stream Health Report was featured on the local news! **Gregg Trilling**, in his new role as Conservation Outreach Manager, will take over management of the ANS volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program.

NATURALLY LATINOS 3 CONFERENCE



Una Comunidad Many Voices



Naturally Latinos Conference #3: Una Comunidad, Many Voices Serenella Linares, ANS Virtual Programs Manager & Conference Co-Chair

This year's Naturally Latinos Conference (December 2-4) will highlight the intersectional nature of the Latinx community within the environmental movement. It is important to understand our mosaic of cultures and the points of view that influence our motivations, our lives, and the ways in which we experience social and environmental justice.

Historically, Latinx people have been excluded from the mainstream environmental movement and we continue to be underrepresented. Through events like the Naturally Latinos Conference, we can begin bridging that gap. At Naturally Latinos, ANS and our partners work hard to create a safe space for our Latinx leaders to bring their particular viewpoints to the table, elevate their voices, and be enriched by one another's company. The conference is an inclusive space to examine the diverse impacts being experienced by our community, share solutions and victories, and continue to grow and develop our networks. We want to expand the power of our people by enhancing our interconnectivity.

We are working tirelessly to ensure that this year's virtual conference will be just as interactive and engaging as the first two at Woodend Sanctuary. An added bonus is that for the first time our conference will be accessible to Latino environmentalists from around the country and the world. There will be great speakers, interactive roundtables and breakout sessions, engaging panels, and, of course, music!

From important figures in the field, to grassroots organizers and everyone in between, the conference will facilitate connections and create a sense of community, networking, and personal growth. ANS and our partners will facilitate post-conference workshops and activities geared to sustain these bonds and allow attendees an opportunity to develop and grow their interest in being environmental stewards within their local communities.

[Join us in this journey](#), connect to wonderful energy and people, and add your perspective to the adventure. ¡Te esperamos!

Thanks to our Conference Partners



Heat that Kills, Trees that Heal, and the Roots of American Racism

by Beatra Wilson, Assistant Director for Urban & Community Forestry, USDA Forest Service



According to a [study conducted by climatecentral.org in 2014](#), 57 of the 60 largest cities in the United States were measurably hotter than surrounding rural areas. They experienced maximum single day temperature differences averaging 17.5 degrees Fahrenheit. These cities averaged at least eight additional 90 degree or hotter days each summer compared to adjacent rural areas, increasing the community's vulnerability to heat-related illnesses, and even death.

Urban trees are a critical tool in combatting urban heat island effects and those impacts are amplified when our urban forests are well managed and equitably distributed. [The USDA Forest Service Urban Community Forestry program](#) supports the development and maintenance of local urban forestry programs through partnership with state forestry agencies, universities, and community tree organizations.

The program, for example, has joined with non-profit and federal partners to prioritize and fund foundational research through Dr. Vivek Shandas, a professor of urban studies and planning at Portland State University. Dr. Shandas's research helps communities better understand their vulnerability to urban heat island effects and how trees may help mitigate impacts. His work, along with research from scientists at the

USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, was foundational to two stories run by NPR in 2019 and 2020. [The first](#) highlighted how it is the most socioeconomically vulnerable communities that experience the highest surface temperatures and the lowest percentages of tree canopy. [The second](#) described the link between segregationist policies in the early 20th century and legacy impacts on tree canopy and how communities experience urban heat island today. NPR noted that, "Extreme heat [kills more Americans](#) every year than any other weather-related disaster, and heat waves are growing in [intensity and frequency](#) as climate change progresses."

The forestry program has also provided funding to the [Los Angeles Urban Cooling Collaborative \(LAUCC\)](#) to define and quantify the relationship between increases in urban tree canopy and reductions in heat-related mortality, and other negative health outcomes. Results influenced heat-resilience strategies for vulnerable communities, led to the design and implementation of solutions at the local scale, and proposed methods for scaling interventions for socially-equitable climate resilience across the country.

You can learn more about historic segregationist policies, urban heat island and community engagement by viewing [an Urban Forest Connections webinar](#) hosted by the Forest Service in August 2020. We featured Dr. Shandas and Cate Mingoya of Groundwork USA. In addition, you can find curated the best available science, tools and case studies on growing sustainable urban forests and how trees can combat [urban heat island](#) impacts on the [Vibrant Cities Lab](#). If you want to learn more about how to engage with Urban & Community Forestry, please reach out to your [state coordinator](#). For more info on the UCF Program, contact beatra.wilson@usda.gov.



Forest Service tree planting in Philadelphia neighborhood. Photo by Alice Ewen.





Lycogola Epidendrum is a slime mold that is common in our region. It lives an ameboid existence. Look for it on damp logs after copious rain. Photo by Serenella Linares at William B. Umstead State Park in Raleigh, North Carolina.



Brushlegged Mayflies from the ANS water quality monitoring site on the Middle Patuxent River in July. These mayflies use hairs (or “brushes”) on their front legs to filter food from flowing water. Photograph by Gregg Trilling.



A likely broad-headed sharpshooter, this baby leafhopper will grow up to be a beautiful blue and orange bug with incredible leaping power. Putting it in human terms, it can jump the equivalent of 240 feet! Photo by Renee Grebe taken in Alexandria, VA.

Natural History Field Studies

This unique continuing education program for adults provides a comprehensive and stimulating view of our region's natural history and conservation issues. Taught at the college freshman level, these courses are open to anyone 18 years of age or older, professionals and amateurs alike. A Certificate of Accomplishment in Natural History is awarded to those choosing to complete a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Credits (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 optional in-person field trips. These locally-based outings will be limited to groups of 8 participants, with mask-wearing and social distancing required. Registrants can elect to enroll in online classes only or choose to participate in field trips as well, space allowing. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit [ANShome.org/adults](https://anshome.org/adults).

The Living Soil

NATH1175E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm

Class meetings: September 23-November 25

Lectures: via Zoom

Field trip dates: October 3, 24 & November 14 (9 am-1 pm)

Online lectures only: members \$240, nonmembers \$265

Online lectures + 3 field trips: members \$330; nonmembers \$360

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Knowledge of soils is basic to understanding plant communities and ecosystems. Examine the nature of soils and the ways they affect their local environment. Learn the structure, properties, nutrient supply, and classification of soils, as well as the significance of these factors to plant growth and other uses. Discover the biodiversity of life in the soil, experience soil groups and soil properties. Previous courses in wetlands and biology are helpful. Soak in soil knowledge via Zoom lectures and join us for socially distanced field trips to natural land resource areas of the DMV. Maximum of 8 students per field trip. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Introduction to Fungi

NATH7204E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 7-8:30 pm

Class meetings: September 21-November 23

Lectures: via Zoom

Field Trip dates:

Group A: September 26, October 17 & 31 (9 am-1 pm)

Group B: October 3, 24 & November 7 (9 am-1 pm)

Online lectures only: members \$240; nonmembers \$265

Online lectures + 3 field trips: members \$330; nonmembers \$360

Instructor: Serenella Linares

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Fungi are incredibly diverse and fascinating organisms that have shaped the terrestrial biota in ways we are just beginning to understand. Fungi evolved unique strategies of exploitation and cooperation with other organisms. 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 socially distanced field trips to apply identification strategies and learn all the fungal hiding places. Maximum of 8 students per field trip. Students will choose field trip group at a later date. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

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 [HERE](#)

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.



Photo by Serenella Linares

Volunteer Corner Cecily Nabors: A Pillar

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

This quarter's spotlight is on Cecily Nabors. With over 1,000 volunteer service hours in just the past five years of record keeping, Cecily has been a volunteer extraordinaire. She "has been the pillar upon which our Natural History Field Studies program has stood for the past 15 years," says Lisa Alexander, our Executive Director. An accomplished naturalist, experienced traveler and writer, whom you may have read in *The Washington Post*, the *Naturalist Quarterly* or *Birders' Digest* among others. Cecily is now stepping down from her role with the Natural History Field Studies program. I had a chance to interview her and here's what she had to say. Her responses have been lightly edited for length and clarity.

VC: How did you first learn about ANS; why did you choose to volunteer with us?

CN: Years ago, the birder friend who first took me owling pointed out that ANS was a great organization. I joined in the late 1980s. By the mid-90s, I was hooked on naturalist travel with the terrific ANS leaders. And in 1998, I signed up for my first ANS course: Introduction to Ornithology.

In 2001, I earned my Certificate in the Natural History Field Studies program, one of the more satisfying things I've ever done. The NHFS program added enrichment, discipline and a sharper focus to my own reading and interests.

I liked the ANS mission and wanted to contribute. Writing sparked my first effort. After the Audubon Naturalist News published a couple of my articles, ANS offered me a chance to write a column in each issue, which I called "Observations." The column ran from 2001 until 2010, when the News publication ended.

A "true believer" in the scope and excellence of the NHFS program, I've volunteered as its coordinator since 2005. This means recruiting instructors, scheduling courses, and being the link between the instructors, ANS, and the Graduate School USA (ANS's NHFS partner for 58 years until this year).

VC: What is one of your most memorable experiences here?

CN: While I love browsing in the ANS Shop, walking the trails, and taking courses, the forays first come to my mind. In Costa Rica, on a magical evening, I watched hummingbirds bathe. Birds with wonderful names: violet-crowned woodnymphs, snowcaps, and purple-crowned fairies. They hovered, dipped, and splashed, as the watery light illuminated their brilliant colors. A beautiful memory.

VC: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your volunteer experiences?

CN: Volunteering for ANS gave me a way to benefit a terrific program plus a chance to work with the instructors and students who loved the NHFS program as much as I did.

Thank you, Cecily. Your dedication to ANS and your work with Natural History Field Studies has ensured that for the last 15 years ANS has trained hundreds of naturalists. We are proud to call you one of our own!

To learn more about the Natural History Field Studies program, visit www.anshome.org/adults.



Praise for Cecily Nabors

I'm just back from a few blissful days in West Virginia, and tears have sprung to my eyes knowing that Cecily is stepping away from her NHFS duties. When I was a wide-eyed, newly minted Education Director, Cecily was endlessly patient with me, helping me to understand (and LOVE) the Natural History Field Studies Program and the years worth of charts, tallies, instructors and evaluations that went into making the program a success. Her years of hard work have created so many learned and dedicated naturalists (both professional and amateur) who participated in and graduated from the program. I think of Cecily as the [Miss Rumphius](#) of natural history, scattering the seeds of natural history knowledge far and wide throughout our region and our world. Thank you, Cecily, for your dedication and hard work.

Lisa Alexander, Executive Director



After 15 years of outstanding service, Cecily Nabors is retiring from the Natural History Field Studies Advisory Committee. During her tenure, Cecily managed the herculean task of scheduling courses, handled our relationships with instructors, saw a near-complete turnover in faculty, kept The Graduate School on track with their marketing and deadlines, and weathered many changes with The Graduate School. Most importantly, she did all of the above with intelligence, skill, kindness, grace and humor.

Linda Keenan, NHFS Committee Chair

Cecily's most significant gift to the NHFS program, its Advisory Committee, and ANS's core mission was her passion for lifelong learning. A voracious reader, a talented writer, and an eager traveler, Cecily focused her organizational skills on ensuring that Field Studies was an engaging and stimulating Continuing Education Program for adult nature lovers and earth stewards. She was always on the lookout for new instructors who could teach new classes/subjects and bring new perspectives to the program. Of course, she was always excited to take those new courses herself! All of us lucky enough to call Cecily an NHFS colleague will sorely miss her key role in the program.

Stephanie Mason, Senior Naturalist





COVID-19 Update Nature Travel Program

During these challenging times ANS staff continues to work diligently to keep our community safe and healthy. With the uncertainty of air travel and social distancing in place, we are taking a measured approach to our trips scheduled for early 2021 and will re-evaluate their status as we move forward, relying on current scientific and government guidance.

Please contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 if you would like information on **Panama (January, 2021) with Terry Lawson Dunn** or **Costa Rica (February, 2021) with Stephanie Mason** when itineraries and registration materials become available.



Photo by Mark S. Garland

COVID-19 Update Free Birding Trips and Walks

Given the uncertainty of the Covid-19 situation this fall, we have made the difficult decision to suspend Free Birding Trips and Free Beginner Bird Walks at Woodend through at least the end of 2020. Keep an eye on our website, our monthly eNews and our Facebook page for updates.

Audubon Naturalist Society AUCTION ADVENTURES

YOUR OWN PERSONAL WOODLANDS TOUR

EXPERT GARDEN CONSULTATION BY ANS RESTORATION STAFF

AN HOUR OF PERSONAL SHOPPING ANS NATURALIST SHOP

CREEK CRITTERS PERSONAL/FAMILY ADVENTURE

Stay tuned for details and many more fun items in our first-ever online auction fundraiser!

Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund News

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund is an international outreach program, overseen by ANS, that provides micro-grants for local conservation and education projects in developing countries. The Committee evaluated 133 proposals and awarded \$3,000 grants to each of the following:

The Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam, **India** seeks to involve the local community and students in the awareness and conservation of the endangered White-winged Wood Duck, the State Bird of Assam.

Building on previous herpetofauna research at Gashaka Gumti National Park in **Nigeria**, GGNP will work with a local NGO to implement community-based programs, training staff and volunteers, and involving stakeholders through meetings, workshops, and educational programs in schools and villages to understand the importance of reptiles and amphibians to the ecosystem.

The Maio Diversity Foundation project in the **Cape Verde** archipelago aims to increase the understanding of the Cream-colored Courser species, a ground-hunting bird, and improve attitudes towards conservation in the community for future endeavors, including sustainable eco-tourism.

The Agricultural Research Station's project at Bangangte, **Cameroon** addresses the need for education and community involvement to recognize the importance of the Goliath Frog and the need for amphibian conservation.

Women for Conservation in the Rupandehi district of **Nepal** seeks to better understand the likely habitats of the Fishing Cat, a globally endangered wild cat, while also improving the vital aquatic environment by engaging the local community through education, focus groups, and community support groups in undertaking project activities, including eco-tourism.

The project being developed in Ruma National Park, **Kenya**, focuses on raising awareness of the vulnerable Blue Swallow as part of educating young people to the importance of all flora and fauna in the ecosystem, beyond the megafauna that is often the limit to their understanding of wildlife.

Green Governance **Nepal** seeks to incorporate sustainable harvesting practices in Community Forest User Groups that are responsible for forest management but have not provided expertise and awareness of the endangered low canopy tree species, the East Himalayan Yew, exploited throughout its range to extract a chemical used in anti-cancer drugs.

In **Uganda**, a local organization working to engage and train local people to be effective environmental stewards is presenting a project to protect the critically endangered *Encephalartos equatorialis*, a member of the Cycad family (palm-like woody plants that are some of the oldest plants on earth), through micro-propagation methods.

Working to protect **Columbia's** endangered wildlife and empower women, Women for Conservation's project seeks to train local women to study the Gorgeted Puffleg hummingbird and identify key habitat in need of protection.

In **Tanzania** the Mahlangu College of Science and Education is proposing a project to curb illegal overfishing and promote sustainable management of the endangered Manyara tilapia fish in the Lake Singida region of central Tanzania, an important source of income to the community.



Youth stewards on Santiago Island, part of the Cape Verde archipelago, safely send off newly-hatched sea turtles, part of a 2019 grant.



Restoration

Accessibility and Truth-telling Among the Obligations of Woodend Stewardship

In its early days, the Audubon Naturalist Society was run by volunteers who were generally white and upper middle class. Being of this social class put ANS in a position to inherit property from one of its wealthiest members in the late 1960s. Our benefactor, Marion Wells, was an heiress whose family owned a tobacco plantation in Australia. By coincidence (or colonial echo), she and Chester Wells built their grand estate in the 1920s on the site of a former American tobacco farm. Marion donated Woodend in her will to ANS to be used as a sanctuary for wildlife.

Preserving this green space free and open to the public in an urbanizing region is an important accomplishment. However, as we examine the social context of our organization and the environmental movement in general, there are three additional obligations that ANS has committed to fulfilling as part of our 50-year master plan for Woodend, starting with this year's Nature For All projects.

First, we commit to telling a full and honest story about Woodend's past. This includes often violent displacement of Native American populations, enslavement of African Americans, and redlining that excluded people of color. We shared these stories in [The Land of Woodend](#) documentary recently re-released, but these historical truths must now find their place in new Woodend interpretation on the drawing board today.

Second, we commit to healing the ecological wounds wrought during the post-colonial era including degradation of soils, pollution of waterways, proliferation of invasive species and decline of native wildlife. While we cannot rewind the clock to a 16th century landscape, we can rebuild ecosystem services and habitat to serve both people and wildlife.

Finally, we commit to welcoming all residents of the DC region to the natural oasis of Woodend. This requires more than simply being free and open to the public. It will involve providing accessible facilities for those with mobility differences and other disabilities, offering literature and programming in multiple languages, and working with community partners to understand how Woodend can better support and partner with our region's rich and diverse communities, including professionals and activists who have well-established legacies of environmental education and protection.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and funders during the Nature for All campaign, this year we will restore the eroded banks of our stream, build meadow and forest habitat, and rehabilitate our main trail to be wheelchair accessible. At the same time, we will design new signs and other interpretive materials to tell the story of Woodend and welcome the diverse population of our vibrant region. We hope you will visit often as the sanctuary is transformed into a place to heal the wounds of the past and imagine a thriving future together. You can start with a [virtual tour](#) right now!



Fall is for Planting!

September and October are the best months to establish new plants! Nurturing native plants is a great way to support wildlife. ANS has a variety of offerings to help make your garden a force for conservation!

Native Plants for Sale

Pre-order a kit of five native winners (25 plugs – 5 of each plant) for the site conditions in your garden. Order yours [HERE](#) while supplies last.

Native Plant Pack for Part to Full Sun:

blue mistflower, rattlesnake master, whorled coreopsis, tufted hairgrass, anise-scented goldenrod

Native Plant Pack for Part Shade:

golden ragwort, iris cristata, clustered mountain mint, bluestem goldenrod, Canadian anemone

Pickup your pre-orders and browse other native plants available September 17 & 18 from 10 am to 2 pm, and September 19 from 10 am to 12 pm outside the Audubon Naturalist Shop at Woodend.



Garden Consultations

Order a one-on-one consultation with ANS Garden Outreach Associate and Master Gardener Jenny Brown, on-site in your garden. After her visit, you'll receive a map and written report that includes:

- Defining sunny, shady, dry and wet areas
- Identifying your existing plants and recommending additions
- Next steps to improve habitat or start a food garden

Cost is \$125 for properties within 15 miles of Woodend (with mask and social distancing). Order your garden consultation [HERE](#)

Garden Consultation Testimonials:

THANK YOU SO MUCH!! What you have provided to us is an AMAZING roadmap to going native in our yard!

Thank you for the very thorough report. I've attacked the ivy in the back with renewed vigor, because I'm excited to start planting that area. I'm looking forward to seeing how the garden evolves over this next year!

Woodend Garden Clinics

Thursdays (1-3 pm)

September Sessions: 10, 17 and October 1

October Sessions: 8, 15, 22

Leader: Jenny Brown

Members \$100; nonmembers \$125

Join ANS Garden Outreach Associate and Master Gardener, Jenny Brown, for these hands-on garden clinics. During these two-hour sessions conducted in the gardens of Woodend, you will gain practical experience with essential skills such as managing compost, thinning and transplanting, weed identification, and pruning. During each session, Jenny will highlight at least four native plants for you to learn common and scientific names, habit, growing conditions and wildlife value. You are encouraged to bring questions, clippings, and photos from home to get help with your own garden challenges. Plus, each session you will take home plant material – either seeds or plants – from the Woodend gardens to cultivate at home.

Limited to 8 participants. [Register here.](#)



Tykee James: Birding While Black and the Question of Values

by Caroline Brewer, Managing Editor of the Naturalist Quarterly

Birder Tykee James is known for saying that everybody has a bird story. Birds, he notes, are as ubiquitous as flowers, although not as easy to see and largely elusive to our touch. But birds do touch us. The majestic species does yeoman's work for humankind, as pollinators, seed dispersers, and keystone species that help us evaluate the health of eco-systems. Birdsong wakes us each morning (if we're lucky), and gives us another reason to cherish the day.

And birding touches Black Americans, in ways most white Americans probably never contemplate. Like, feeling haunted.

Every time James, a board member of DC Audubon Society, leaves his house to go birding, he wonders whether it might be his last. "I do think about what I'm going to wear, because I'm thinking, 'Is this the last thing I'll be seen in?,'" says James, who leads birding trips for members of Congress as part of his job. "I think, 'What's something I have that makes me look the least threatening to white people?' Anytime I'm out, I text and let people know where I'm at. Going outside is an opportunity for racism. I can't be too comfortable, but I want to relax, because I'm watching birds."

The world now better understands the piercing truth of how dangerous outdoor life can be to Black Americans because of the police killing of George Floyd, which came on the heels of the terrible and potentially life-threatening Central Park encounter between Birder and National Audubon Society member Christian Cooper and New Yorker Amy Cooper (no relation). ([See this article for details.](#))

Those twin acts, heaped upon 400 heavy years of racial injustice, gave rise to the first #BlackBirdersWeek. Co-founded by James, Anna Gifty Opoku-Agyeman, and several other members of the BlackAFinSTEM collective, Black Birders Week was designed to repair some of our nation's brokenness by raising awareness of the role that Blacks play in birding, conservation, and the natural sciences. It brought a whirlwind of social media followers to the group's Twitter page, appreciation, and offers of help.

"One of the things I value the most from Black Birders Week is the number of people who asked, 'How can I help?'" recalled James, who hosted a talk on these issues in August for the ANS Naturalist Hour series.

He recommended small but powerful actions such as, "Normalize using pronouns and greeting other birders with a simple 'Welcome.'"

On the bigger side, he counsels, "Normalize demonstrating your values. When you don't have all the answers -- and you won't have all the answers -- you will have your values. And it will be obvious to everyone what your values are."

The question of demonstrating values is central to new discussions about the racist history of John James Audubon. James said he was impressed with a recent [National Audubon Society piece](#) about the man whose pioneering legacies in birding and illustration moved conservation groups, including this one, to take up his moniker, decades after his death. "The article is written fairly transparently, and critically," he said, about John James Audubon's history as a racist and owner of enslaved people.

As to whether the light being shed on some of the despicable acts of J.J. Audubon should encourage nature groups to abandon their name, James replied, "Taking down monuments and names to reflect our contemporary morals is important work to change the culture of conservation, but we cannot mistake that as the end game for the work that needs to be done for these Audubons to become anti-racist organizations." (See page 33 for a statement from ANS President on our values).



Tykee James speaking in February 2020 at the Maryland "I Bird I Vote Environmental Summit".



James's photo of a European Starling, which he captured on the rooftop of his Mount Pleasant, DC home. James notes, "The ancestors of the European Starling, like my own, were brought to the 'New World' on ships against their will. Both acts would later be made illegal."

John James Audubon: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly, the Future

by ANS Board President Nancy Pielemeier



I hope you've had a chance to read the [recent articles](#) about the racist history of John James Audubon the man (1785 – 1851). The ANS Board and staff have been in deep discussion about the ugly aspects of Audubon's personal life and credo and how his name came to symbolize bird conservation organizations across the U.S. in the 1890s.

As anti-racism protests spread across the country, states, cities, and towns are coming to grips with distasteful name associations that appear on monuments, public squares and schools. Here at Audubon Naturalist Society, we cannot escape that name reckoning, along with larger questions of racism and injustice. At a time when centuries of environmental injustice have led to disproportionate, negative health impacts from Covid-19 on African American and Latinx people in our region, we must squarely face wrongs of the past and actively work to fix long-standing injustices.

White leaders in conservation have long averted our eyes from the racist, sexist and exclusionary track record of many of our movement's founders. So the question before us, writ large on the national stage, becomes how do we heal the hurts and suffering of the past, ensure safe and equitable access to nature for all, while safeguarding the future of important conservation institutions that are vital to the protection of our natural world?

We have adopted a strategic plan that elevates Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) as a key pillar of our mission work. We have created safe spaces for staff to speak up about discrimination they experience in our workplace. We are training staff to recognize and work to overcome the unconscious biases that we all carry with us.

We have created new hiring guidelines to generate diverse applicant pools for every job we post. We have rolled out online basic training for our 500+ volunteers on IDEA values. We have set targets for recruiting staff, Board members, ANS members and volunteers of color.

And just this summer, in the midst of the pandemic, our board established a standing IDEA committee to ensure that robust work to combat systemic racism and environmental injustice is embedded across all of our mission work.

This Naturalist Quarterly contains many examples of the ways that ANS is embracing IDEA, from advocating for fair housing and access to green space in the DC region (page 7), to hosting our third Naturally Latinos conference (page 22), to examining the segregationist legacy of the founding of Chevy Chase, Maryland where our headquarters is located (page 4), to sharing voices from the frontlines of racial and social justice.

While I am not averse to changing the name, I want ANS to approach this possible change with care, with input from members, funders, and people of color in the DC region, and possibly in collaboration with the National Audubon Society and the Independent Audubon chapters. Our Executive Director, Lisa Alexander, has been participating in virtual meetings with Independent Audubons and the National Audubon Society to discuss the deeply troubling aspects of the name we all share.

ANS has changed its name once before, from the 1897 moniker Audubon Society of the District of Columbia to the name Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States in the 1960s. (What a mouthful!) We could have a wonderful time thinking of new names for ANS that would fully represent our IDEA principles. I look forward to engaging in meaningful conversations with you about our name and our future in the weeks and months ahead.

If your friends and family should ask you what ANS is doing about our name, send them this essay. In the meantime, I encourage you all to stay tuned in to ANS emails, eNews, our website, the Naturalist Quarterly and social platforms like Facebook and Twitter to learn about the latest on our IDEA work.

I'm proud to stand with all ANS members as a force for healing in our region. Together we will achieve Nature for All.



*John James Audubon 1826
by John Syme - The White House Historical Association*



**Audubon
Naturalist
Society**

40th Bloomin' Birdathon

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's fundraiser A Birdathon Like Never Before!

Truly this year's Birdathon was one of a kind. Forced by the COVID-shutdown to rethink our annual Bloomin' Birdathon fundraiser, we could never have imagined how many people would step up and help us reach our incredibly ambitious goal of \$90,000 – but we did it! Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

The shutdown required us to cancel our popular Audubon After Dark fundraising dinner and wrap its \$60,000 revenue into the Birdathon's goal. We are particularly grateful to our regular Audubon After Dark sponsors who graciously switched their support to the Birdathon and to all the new participants including many ANS staff members who happily counted birds, blooms, insects and many other species to help us meet this amazing challenge.

A special thanks to this year's top Bloomin' Birdathon fundraisers:

- ANS Staff Teams: \$25,017
- ANS Board of Directors Team: \$17,558
- Stephanie Mason and Pam Oves: \$13,742
- Team Cottingham: \$8,122
- Marcia Minichiello: \$6,180
- No Carbon Footprint Team (Neal Fitzpatrick & John Bjerke): \$1,685
- Stephen and Liz Jones: \$1,552

Thank you to the other Bloomin' Birdathon participants: Anna Anders, Bonnie Bluebirds (Katherine Payne and Patti Mackey), Sheila Cochran, Diana Garber, Cecily Nabors and Diane Ford, Shirley Putnam, Riderwood Redwings (Pat Cassimatis and Karen Wilhelm), Nicholas Schliapin, Nora Whitmore and the Wyngate Warriors – and to everyone who supported our valiant counters.

Your generous support helps fund ANS's environmental education and conservation programs throughout the year, so we are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped us through this challenging time by supporting our 40th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon.

EagleBank is very proud to sponsor the 40th annual Bloomin' Birdathon!

*“Hope’ is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all”
Emily Dickinson*

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Woodend's rental caterers support ANS's programs by donating food for our fundraising events throughout the year.

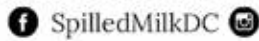
If you are planning a catered event, please consider using one of our approved caterers.



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The Naturalist Shop at Woodend Sanctuary is currently open from 11AM-3PM daily; CLOSED Wednesdays and Sundays.

Please visit www.anshome.org/naturalist-shop/ for online ordering options.



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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.

Support ANS – Monthly!

It's easy! Go to ANSHome.org/Donate, or contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or loree.trilling@anshome.org.

WOODEND NATURE SANCTUARY

Celebrate Life

"Thank you for your help while organizing my father's memorial. It went really well, and I couldn't have imagined a better spot to hold it."

J. F., Washington, D.C.



Celebrate the life of your loved one at historic Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

When you need a place to remember and share fond memories of your loved one with family and friends, consider historic Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion.

Nestled on a 40-acre nature sanctuary, Woodend is conveniently located in Chevy Chase, MD, and offers a private setting with planning support, on-site parking, and excellent catering options, so you can focus on what matters most to you in moments like this.

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 may also register in person in the EE office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 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 participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Naturalist Society 75493** in the 2015

Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



ANS ANNUAL MEETING

Charting the Path Forward

Thursday, October 22, 6:00–7:30 pm, Zoom Meeting

Calling all ANS members and supporters! Please be sure to join us for the 2020 Annual Meeting to learn about all the ways Audubon Naturalist Society is charting its path toward a bright future in the face of global pandemic.

While we can't meet in person, we'll look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces at our first-ever, Zoom Annual Meeting. The event will include updates on programming and Nature for All construction, unveiling of new projects, and election of the most diverse slate of Board candidates in ANS history. Your vote at this Annual Meeting is more important than ever now!

Register by October 21 for this free event online at <https://anshome.org/annual-meeting-2020/>. The Zoom link will be included in the confirmation and a reminder will be sent the morning of the meeting.

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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