

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

# Naturalist Quarterly

Autumn 2017

ANSHOME.ORG



## Why ANS? Experts

September is Rachel Carson Month

ANS NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

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

#### HEADQUARTERS

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

#### STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

Sunday 12-5 PM

#### GROUND'S HOURS

Dawn to dusk

#### ANS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$15

Individual \$50

Family \$65

Nature Steward \$100

Audubon Advocate \$200

Sanctuary Guardian \$500

Naturalists Council \$1,000

Preservationist \$1,000+

#### NATURALIST QUARTERLY is

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

ISSN 0888-6555

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Environmental Education x16

Membership x35

Publications, advertising x23

Rentals x38

Volunteers x30

Contributions x31

Special Events x12

Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

E-mail unusual bird sightings to  
Voice@anshome.org

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# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

ANShome.org Autumn 2017

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**COVER** Clockwise: Gina Ghertner; Sarah Anderson, Linda Lear, Frank Sanford, and Stephanie Mason. Photo of Ghertner by Robin Ghertner; photos of Anderson, Lear, and Sanford by Ben Israel; photo of Mason by Cecily Nabors.

**STAFF UPDATES:** We say goodbye to **Carlos Navas**, Property Manager, and are pleased to promote **Bjorn Busk** from Assistant Property Manager to Acting Property Manager. We are grateful for the hard work of three interns who spent their summer with ANS. **Christian Schluter** is a rising senior and a geography major at Salem State University in Massachusetts who has been working with the Conservation program on mapping our stream science data. See his map on page 7. **Sarah Becker** is an environmental studies major at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. She has been working with the Conservation program engaging people of all ages through our Creek Critters outreach program. Finally, thank you to **Ashley Tejada**, who is an American University senior, majoring in Communications. Ashley worked in Communications as a writer and layout designer for ANS's eNews, a writer for the Naturalist Quarterly (see feature on experts), a staff photographer, and Facebook contributor.

## From the Director

### ANS runs on experts

My summer trip to the ocean in Nova Scotia was not as peaceful as in years past. We're renovating the pink cottage my grandparents built to make more room for family. Rather than the peace of the cove, the sight of the kingfisher, and the call of the loon, we were greeted with the sound of hammers and saws and the spectacle of ladders, tools and workers all over the house and yard. While it was not my ideal vacation, I gained deep appreciation for the expertise and skill of the contractors who installed light fixtures, tiles, cabinets and – thank heavens – a commode, the day before our big family party. All those experts working together are creating a new Pink House that's an even better version of the original.

As I think about our growing ANS family, I take pride in knowing how many experts are helping guide ANS to become an even better version of the outstanding organization we've been for the past 120 years. Think about the landscape architects who helped us create a visionary 50-year Master Plan for Woodend Sanctuary, the builders who brought to life our gorgeous Marcia Sward Forest Kindergarten Classroom, the engineers who designed our state-of-the-art Tree-Safe Rain Garden, and the attorneys who defended ANS against a developer's subpoena and represented our interests so that we could install a deer fence at Woodend.

More amazing than the top flight outside experts who advise ANS, it's the internal expertise of our staff, instructors, volunteers, and members that keep Audubon Naturalist Society in a class of its own. Our Audubon Nature Preschool, the first



preschool in the state to be certified as a Maryland Green School, has been visited by early childhood leaders from around the world who want to learn from the education model we've built. Our volunteer team for the Blair Native Plant Garden includes current and past presidents of the Maryland Native Plant Society. Our instructor for Natural History Field Studies geology classes teaches geology at Northern Virginia Community College. A member of our Finance Committee is on the staff of one of the largest, top-rated non-profit consulting firms in the nation. Everywhere you turn at ANS, you'll encounter an expert who is contributing to ANS's mission work for the environment.

Our ranks are filled with writers, scientists, and nature enthusiasts who gladly share their expertise with others – teaching classes on everything from butterflies to bats to how to advocate for nature. Our own Volunteer Master Naturalists have ramped up their expertise in order to collect baseline data on species diversity at Woodend so that we can track the return to biodiversity as we move forward on our ambitious plans to restore the sanctuary.

Even as I write this column, a team of ANS Board members, staff and volunteers has pooled their collective expertise to put finishing touches on an ambitious and inspiring 5-year Strategic Plan. Please join me at the Annual Meeting on October 19 to learn more about this transformational plan that will guide us into the future. (See back cover for details.)

What expertise do you have to share with ANS? Could you lead a class, volunteer for restoration projects, donate in-kind services, join a committee or the Board? Let me know about the special talents you have to share with ANS at [lisa.alexander@anshome.org](mailto:lisa.alexander@anshome.org). In the meantime, please volunteer or sign up for an ANS program or event. I suspect you'll feel like an even better version of yourself once you've learned from one of the many wonderful ANS experts.



**PS. CASE DISMISSED!** I just received the news that **we won!** On August 25th, the Federal Court **dismissed** the case of Pulte vs. Montgomery County. As you might remember, Pulte sued the county for lost development rights in Ten Mile Creek and subpoenaed ANS and our partners in the fight to Save Ten Mile Creek! United States District Court Judge George Hazel ruled that Pulte had no legally satisfactory development rights given broad powers reserved for the County under the 1994 Master Plan. The Court also found the County had a rational basis for limiting development in Ten Mile Creek (thanks to our great water quality data!) and that it is not the place of the federal courts to second guess. How wonderful it is to know that right beats might when it comes to saving the environment!

## LETTERS

### Kudos to Camp Audubon

Hi Nora (June Bug),

Just wanted to send a note over and tell you how much we absolutely love Audubon camp. This is William's (8-year old) second year and Olive's (5-year old) first year and they absolutely have the time of their lives!

The day-to-day adventures, the kind and outgoing staff and the wealth of information that they come home with is so appreciated.

Olive told me that she "had the best day of her entire life" when she had camp a few weeks ago with Ms Amelia (Weasel) and this week she went on and on about how awesome Banana, Gizzard, Slug, etc were. They would greet her with smiles and happiness every morning and make her feel like a million bucks.

My favorite part of the day is dinner because they talk excitedly about their day and all the adventures that were had.

So thank you for providing such an exceptional camp and please thank your incredible staff, who really do go above and beyond!

See you next summer,

Erin Burns, Washington, DC

## Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Nationalist Society 75493** in the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



# Why ANS? Experts

Stories by Caroline Brewer and ANS Intern Ashley Tejada

In this issue, we invite you to learn more about the experts who make nature something we're compelled to experience more often and at deeper levels. We begin with features on ANS's buoyant Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason and Dr. Linda Lear, the definitive biographer of Rachel Carson. More on ANS's experts can be found at [anshome.org/experts](http://anshome.org/experts), FB, and Twitter.

See September Rachel Carson Month Events on page 29 and [anshome.org/events-calendar](http://anshome.org/events-calendar).



## Linda Lear

1970s environmental history students studying under Linda Lear at George Washington University didn't know Rachel Carson, a woman whose courage, insatiable scientific curiosity, and poetic way with words launched the modern environmental movement. "They found reading *Silent Spring* hard-going, which it was. So, I said, 'We've got to have something for the students.' "

Lear meant something that would make Carson's life and work easier to digest. When the professor couldn't find material that fit the bill, she detoured. "I started my research not knowing that I grew up (in Pittsburgh) within 50 miles of where Carson grew up in Springdale, PA. I began finding people who knew Rachel and realized I was onto something much bigger than a classroom biography," said Lear, who is today the definitive biographer of Carson.

Over 15 years, Lear conducted 300 interviews, traveled to four states and landed at ANS where she met Shirley Briggs, Carson's former assistant and head of the Rachel Carson Council. By winning the confidence of Carson's editor, Paul Brooks, Lear was able to bring her research to life in 1997 when *Rachel Carson: Witness for Nature* was published.

"Carson's expertise is that she's able to take this massive amount of research and knowledge, and turn it into not just something interesting, but the most beautiful prose imaginable," said Lear, an ANS member and Montgomery County resident, just as Carson was.

"In the process of writing *Silent Spring*...Carson didn't jump at conclusions. She was sicker and sicker (with cancer) and, on some level, she knows this will be her last book. People wanted her to say all insecticides are carcinogenic. She didn't know that," Lear said. "(Carson) *did know* that humans could mess up the world pretty badly with their love of machines and their disregard for nature."

Carson's legacy of passion balanced by precision has changed the world, and Lear's. "More than ever, people are recognizing this woman was quite (remarkable). She had something really important to say, and she said it fearlessly. I've grown as a person because of her example," said Lear.

## Stephanie Mason

"My mother used to take us from my grandparents' farm in mid-state Illinois to the woods across the road where there were violets, and spring beauties, and bluebells," said Stephanie Mason, the Senior Naturalist for ANS and Director of Adult Education. "My paternal grandfather was a wholesale florist, so I grew up in a plant world and that's where, maybe, I come closest to being an expert."

From a childhood bursting with the wonders of the natural world, Mason found her way to ANS. "When I arrived at ANS in 1989, my naturalist knowledge was pretty slim. But as an intern I could attend all ANS classes for free, so I spent every weekend in the field soaking up both knowledge and teaching styles from experts including botanist Cris Fleming, entomologist Richard Orr, bird-whisperer John Bjerke, butterfly guru Dick Smith, and by shadowing my more experienced co-worker, Senior Naturalist Mark Garland," Mason said. "I put many miles on my rusting Honda Civic."

All those miles - bumpy, smooth and flourishing with nature enthusiasts of the highest order - allowed Mason to blossom as an expert general naturalist in her own right. Today she teaches ANS natural history classes and leads field trips for adults. Mason's high-energy nature walks are made more memorable because of her jazz-like mimicking of bird songs and colorful commentary on the characteristics of this region's flora and fauna. Mason also has the enviable task of superintending trips to far away nature paradises, such as Costa Rica, Panama, and the Galapagos Islands.

"It's been satisfying over the years to have field trip participants tell me that I've opened their eyes to the possibilities of wonder in their own backyard.

Unlocking secrets of nature is something fun that people can experience, again and again," Mason said. "But the gratitude goes both ways. Teaching broadens my own understanding of the natural world, and I learn from my students too. They humble me and keep me going back for more."





## Frank Sanford

Frank Sanford is an expert teacher. More than 400,000 hours of living as a teacher over the past 46 years has allowed him to impart knowledge to every age group from preschoolers to adults in their golden years. And Sanford has a grand old time doing it. Which is why some around here call him the *Pied Piper of the Natural World*. Before joining ANS four years ago, Sanford taught science in Montgomery County Public Schools and at the DC-based Sheridan School. His passion for teaching about science and the environment flows from a lifetime of

outdoor learning and experimenting. From fishing to hiking, Sanford's childhood in St. Louis, MO was flooded with wild adventures in the great outdoors. Working at ANS combines nature and education, two of Sanford's favorite things. Every first Saturday, he leads our monthly, themed, family hikes, such as *Change of Seasons* and *How Animals Use Color*, and has co-taught summer camps on Pond Study, Exploration Hikes, and Ethnobotany (plants and their uses for making dyes and paints, for instance).

Sanford completed the ANS Master Naturalist Program four years ago, and continues taking new courses to build his environmental expertise. "I think my ability to transfer my enthusiasm about the natural world to kids (and adults, too, I hope) is my strength," Sanford said.



## Gina Ghertner

Gina Ghertner has been an expert-in-the-making most of her life. Growing up in the lush forested lands of Peru, she bore witness to the destruction over time of some of Peru's magnificent rainforests by various entities, some of them illegal mining companies; others, hunting groups. Ghertner was so affected by the destruction of her rainforests that she dedicated her life to helping prevent harm to nature.

Her love for the rainforest drove her to earn her Bachelor's of Science degree in Forest Sciences from La Molina National Agricultural University in Lima, Peru. Ghertner has since worked on indigenous rights and sustainable environment programs with the Rainforest Foundation; was a volunteer for Tree Steward in Arlington and Montgomery Counties, and is a citizen scientist for ANS's Water Quality Monitoring Program. In spring 2016, she created for ANS *Vamos al Bosque*—meaning in Spanish, *Let's go to the woods*. Lately, Ghertner has devoted more time to her new ANS initiative, *Testing the Waters*, a program that both educates and empowers high school students to evaluate the health of local streams.

Ghertner believes that "everyone has the power to teach others how easy it is to protect the environment." The more we do, "...one day we could all become, in some way, experts on the natural world."

## Sarah Anderson

Sarah Anderson is an expert builder, not, however, with cement or steel. Anderson builds relationships. She helps build and strengthen ties between urban communities and environmental organizations. Anderson builds plans for environmental and cultural sustainability in D.C. through her company, Lillie Leaf Solutions. She recently hosted a two-day conference, *Greater and Greener 2017*, which brought together non-profit, government, and community organizations, and individuals who want to see more green on the urban scene. The workshops and trainings go beyond planting more trees. They are constructed to ensure that new trees are cared for by neighborhoods and communities and nurtured to maturity. (Photo shows pines that have grown dramatically from the time they were planted years ago.)



In recent years, Anderson has become a partner with ANS to build bridges to urban areas and communities of color. She has served on ANS's Woodend 2065 Master Plan committee, been a keynote speaker at the Conservation Department's Conservation Café series, served on ANS's programs committee, and provided sponsorship for the inaugural Naturally Latinos conference.

# Conservation



## ANS Conservation Policy and Advocacy News

### National

The attacks of the Trump Administration and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on environmental protections continue. In July, Pruitt formally began the process of **rolling back the Clean Water Rule**, which protects the small streams and wetlands that are the beginnings of all our water sources. Rolling back this rule threatens protections for the drinking water of 117 million Americans—and 67% of Marylanders, and 28% of Virginians, rely on small streams protected by the Clean Water Rule for the water they drink. THANK YOU to all the ANSers who have sent letters in support of keeping the Clean Water Rule. There is still time to comment until September 27 - go to [conservationblog.anshome.org](http://conservationblog.anshome.org) and click on "Current Actions & Campaigns."

### Around the Region

**The Zombie Bridge is back:** Loudoun County elected officials and exurban developers on both sides of the river are trying to get an Outer Beltway Bridge over the Potomac River put back on the drawing board. This bridge has been studied to death over decades, but despite strong resistance from Montgomery County Council, it's now going to get studied again by the regional Transportation Planning Board. Thanks to letters, phone calls, tweets, and more from ANS members and allies around the region, our elected officials have heard loud and clear that a new bridge over the Potomac would bring sprawl to our rural lands, threaten our drinking water supplies, and not solve traffic problems. We need to invest in existing infrastructure, watershed protection, and transit alternatives, not keep building pavement in a 1950s-era model for growth.

In **Montgomery County**, the Department of Environmental Protection released a new policy designed to make the Green Streets program more responsive to neighbors. The new policy is in line with ANS's recommendations and will make it easier for the Department to explain the **Green Streets** program to neighbors and offer choices that people would like to see in front of their houses. We thank DEP for listening to community concerns and for their commitment to making Green Streets a success! Learn more about Green Streets on our blog or in the Spring 2017 Naturalist Quarterly.

## Rain Garden Ribbon Cutting

Woodend's Tree-Safe Rain Garden is ready for its close-up! Join us on **Friday, October 13 from 10-11:30 am** for a short ceremony and a tour of the garden. Learn more about our rain garden at [www.conservationblog.anshome.org](http://www.conservationblog.anshome.org).

Grant funding for the rain garden was provided through the Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund, EPA Region 3 and the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

## Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101 Workshop

Tuesday, October 17 (1-4 pm)

Members \$15; nonmembers \$25

Register at [www.anshome.org/conservation-events](http://www.anshome.org/conservation-events) (click on October)

Is your community stream being threatened by development? Pollution a problem? Could your local official do something to help? Want to know what you can do at home to help the health of our streams and creeks? Join Audubon Naturalist Society's experts at Woodend Sanctuary for a fun and empowering workshop introducing you to environmental advocacy and watershed stewardship! All are welcome.

The focus is on clean water and the skills can apply to any environmental issue. Learn how you can raise your voice for local conservation.

Want to keep up with the latest policy and advocacy news? Join our Action Alert list at <https://anshome.org/sign-up-for-ans-action-alerts/> and check out our blog at [www.conservationblog.anshome.org](http://www.conservationblog.anshome.org).

## Conservation Cafés

Enjoy a fun evening, learn about conservation topics, and support ANS!

Join us in the Woodend Mansion for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on a variety of nature conservation topics. Your \$10 registration fee goes to support our ANS Conservation Program. All programs are on Thursday evenings and run from 7-8:30 pm. **See detailed descriptions and register at <https://anshome.org/conservation-events>.**

### Upcoming events:

- **September 21: Jai Cole (Montgomery Parks):** Stewarding Montgomery County's stream valley parks: the green spaces that tie our neighborhoods together
- **October 26: Jim Lyons (formerly Department of the Interior):** What Now? Public Lands and the Environment Under Trump (rescheduled from spring!)
- **November 16: Jorge Bogantes Montero (Anacostia Watershed Society):** Countdown to 2025: A Vision to Restore the Anacostia River

**Make it a Date Night! Child care now available during Conservation Café for children ages 4-10!**

Fee: \$15 (\$10 for each additional child)

Nature based fun educational activities offered by our naturalist for the children down at our Preschool Teale Center while adults attend Fall 2017 Conservation Cafés. Preregister by emailing [serenella.linares@anshome.org](mailto:serenella.linares@anshome.org) with subject line "Conservation Cafe child care." Pay on arrival.

# How Healthy is Your Stream?

By Cathy Wiss

Map by ANS Summer Intern Christian Schluter

Every spring, summer, fall, and, optionally, during winter, 180 ANS volunteers fan out across Montgomery County and Washington, DC to monitor our local streams. They wade into the water to collect small organisms that live among the rocks on the bottom, hide in the spaces between fallen leaves and roots, and cling to plants growing in the water. The technical term for these organisms is "benthic macroinvertebrates" because they have no backbone and live on the bottom of streams. Many of them are aquatic insects.

The monitors identify the organisms, record their findings, and return them to the stream. We can compute a stream health score for the monitoring visit based on the diversity and types of organisms we find. That's because some of them are more sensitive to pollution and environmental stress, such as high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen, than others. Streams with greater diversity and more sensitive organisms receive higher scores than those with little diversity and more tolerant organisms.

As a rule, streams in forested and rural areas usually have better water quality than those in developed areas. This map shows the relative health of the stream sites we monitor. Each monitoring site has been given a color-coded rating based on

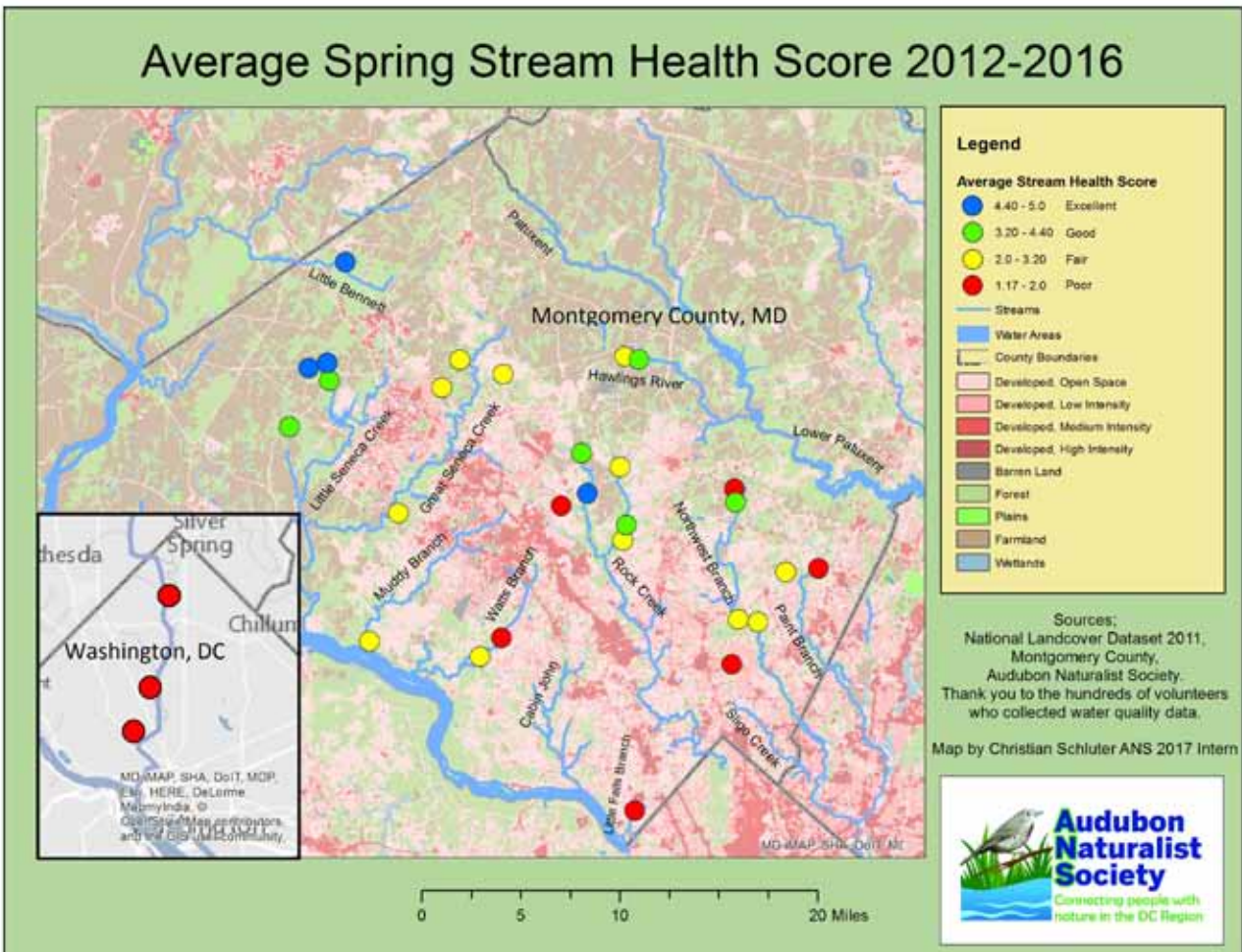
the average of its stream health scores for the years 2012-2016. Check out the map: how healthy is your stream?

On July 14, we submitted a report of all of our data for the years 2012-2016 to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), including the map below. MDE will use this information to help make planning decisions like whether the stream is meeting water quality standards and whether it should be restored.

If you are interested in learning more about monitoring with ANS, we invite you to attend our upcoming introductory Stream Science classes in September (see page 22), or contact Cathy Wiss at [cathy.wiss@anshome.org](mailto:cathy.wiss@anshome.org) to find a team that monitors near you so you can go and observe. Classes and monitoring are open to people of all ages.



Photo of dobsonfly by Gregg Trilling



# Children & Family Programs

You and your kids can unplug and explore nature every day at Woodend and Rust nature sanctuaries, open dawn to dusk for free, 365 days a year. Our trained naturalists and excellent volunteers are eager to introduce children to nature through the Audubon Nature Preschool, Summer Camp, Nature Birthday Parties, and Family Programs, and at your children's school through School Programs and GreenKids. Consider having your PTA or PTO sponsor a nature activity for your school!



## Tales and Trails

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver

Tuesdays, September 12-November 14 (10 weeks)

Fall Session: \$75 per child

On Tuesdays at 10 o'clock, join us in the historic Woodend mansion for nature-themed stories and songs. We will read new books each week, enjoy learning nature songs and games, and explore Woodend trails.

Please feel free to relax and enjoy our trails, picnic areas, and bookstore before or after the program. Program starts at 10 am in the Woodend Dining Room followed by trail hikes outside until 10:45. Register online at [www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents). Questions? Contact Kylie at [kylie.watson@anshome.org](mailto:kylie.watson@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x44.

## School's Out Camps

Do you want your children to be outside in nature learning and having fun on their day off from school? Then send them to our School's Out Camp! We'll explore the Woodend Nature Sanctuary, get muddy in the pond, build forts, and play games. (By the way, this brave girl below is holding a frog).

Register online at  
[anshome.org/parents](http://anshome.org/parents)

Thursday, September 21, 2017

MCPS Day Off (Grades K-9)

Friday, September 22, 2017

DCPS Day Off (Grades K-5)

Friday, October 27, 2017

DCPS Day Off (Grades K-5)

Friday, April 27, 2018

DCPS Day Off (Grades K-5)

Friday, May 25, 2018

DCPS Day Off (Grades K-5)

8:45 am-5 pm

Members \$95; nonmembers \$110



## Earth-Friendly ReUse It Sale

Come visit our annual Earth-Friendly ReUse It Sale on **Saturday, October 14 from 9-11 am** at Woodend Sanctuary to benefit the Audubon Nature Preschool. The Earth-Friendly ReUse It Sale features:

- family nature walks (at 9 am and 10 am)
- gently used children's items (gear, books, toys, etc)
- naturally delicious homemade treats
- your morning cup of coffee or cider
- connections with Nature Preschool staff, families and friends

## Weekend Walks in the Woods

Join us the first Saturday of every month for a **FREE** naturalist-led walk in the woods. Explore the Woodend grounds and learn about different topics each month, such as birds, trees, insects, and fungi. All ages welcome! Walks run from 9-10 am. Meet at the gazebo by the Audubon Naturalist Shop.



## Birthday Parties



### Unplug and Celebrate with a Nature Birthday Party at Woodend Sanctuary!

ANS offers nature-themed birthday parties for ages 4-10 at our Chevy Chase Nature Sanctuary.

Choose from our party themes: Animal Clues, All About Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Wiggly Worms, Insect Investigations, Ponding, Winter Detective, and Stayin' Alive When Winter Winds Blow

Parties are 1.5 hours and are held year-round on Saturdays and Sundays.

Parties are \$230 for ANS members and \$265 for nonmembers (which includes a family membership)

Register online at [www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents)



Email [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org)  
for more information or call  
301-652-8188 x10.

### WEEKLY PLANT CLINIC

Master Gardeners have a "help desk" outside Woodend's Naturalist Shop on Saturdays, 10 am-Noon, April through September. Bring your plant/insect specimens and learn more about gardening!

## Camp Audubon thanks you for a great summer!

It's not too early to think about next summer! Tell your friends - the date to become an ANS member and be eligible for members-only registration on January 27, 2018 is Friday, December 1, 2017. Catalogs will be mailed in late December.



### Spring Break Camp

Monday, March 26-Friday, March 30, 2018  
(8:45 am-3 pm)

Members \$347; nonmembers \$432

Register online at [www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents)



[twitter.com/ANStweets](https://twitter.com/ANStweets)



### Nature Backpacks

Visit our Naturalist Shop to check out a backpack that will have tools and activities you and your family can use to explore nature right here at Woodend Sanctuary. Themes include birds, insects, trees, nature art, and more. Backpacks are free for check-out in the shop but must be returned by 4:30 pm.



### Support ANS – Monthly!

It's easy! Go to [ANShome.org/Donate](http://ANShome.org/Donate), or contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or [loree.trilling@anshome.org](mailto:loree.trilling@anshome.org).

### Save the Date

**ANS Annual Meeting**  
Thursday, October 19  
See page 32 for details.

## Audubon Nature Preschool



The Audubon Nature Preschool features programs for children aged 5 years and younger. Children benefit from exploring the natural surroundings of the 40-acre sanctuary, which offer endless opportunities for investigation and discovery.

The Audubon Nature Preschool builds on children's inherent curiosity about the world by using hands-on, nature-based activities to foster social, physical, and academic skill development.

All Nature Preschool programs run September-May.

### Contact Us

301-652-9188 x32  
[www.ANShome.org/preschool](http://www.ANShome.org/preschool)

**APPLY ONLINE**

[ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL](http://ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL)

### Drop-off Programs

#### Saplings

3-5 year olds  
Mondays through Thursdays  
AM program, 8:45-11:45 am  
PM program, 12:45-3:15 pm

#### Oaks

4-5 year olds  
Forest Kindergarten  
Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am-2 pm; Fridays, 9 am-12 pm

### Parent and Child Programs

#### Acorns

4 year olds and younger  
All outdoor program  
Thursdays, 9:30-11 am  
Sibling discounts available

**WAITLIST**

#### Sprouts

2-3 year olds  
Activities on the trails & in the preschool  
Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am

**WAITLIST**

### Donate Now to Support Our Work

You can help us educate and inspire through nature with your donation to the Preschool Legacy Fund. Go to [anshome.org/donate](http://anshome.org/donate) to make a contribution.

## Audubon Nature Preschool Schedule

Class	Days	Hours	Tuition	Age by September 1	Class size	Caregiver attends with child
Acorns	Thursdays	9:30-11:00am	\$90/month	4 yrs. and younger	20	yes
Sprouts	Fridays	9:30-11:30am	\$125/month	2-3 years	12	yes
AM Saplings	Mon-Thurs	8:45-11:45am	\$795/month	3-5 years	16	no
PM Saplings	Mon-Thurs	12:45-3:15pm	\$695/month	3-5 years	16	no
Oaks	Mon-Fri	M-Th: 9 am-2pm Fri: 9 am-12pm	\$1350/month	4-5 years	15	no

# Rust / Northern Virginia



**RUST  
NATURE  
SANCTUARY**

**KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE**

703-669-0000 | ANShome.org/Rust  
802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia

## Fresh Air Kids – Two Locations!

Children are born naturalists. The Audubon Naturalist Society builds on children’s inherent curiosity about the world by using hands-on, nature-based activities to foster social, physical, and academic skill development. Our Fresh Air Kids Class is for children ages 5 and younger, along with a parent or caregiver. Classes might involve crafts, songs, books and always a hike. Bring your lunch or snack. Mingle and meet other caregivers!

### Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg ,VA

**Fridays (10-11:30 am)**

**September 22-November 10**

**Cost: \$120 (siblings 21 months and older \$110, siblings under 21 months free)**

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. To register go to: [www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents). Questions? Email [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org).

### Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA

**Mondays (10-11 am)**

**September 18-November 20 (no class 10/9 & 11/6)**

**Cost: \$100 (siblings 21 months and older \$85, siblings under 21 months free)**

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Offered in partnership with NOVA Parks. To register go to: [www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents). Questions? Email [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org). Offered in partnership with NOVA Parks.

## Environmental Science Field Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

More time at Rust and less time on the bus! The Rust Nature Sanctuary is conveniently **located off Route 7 in Leesburg**. Closer to school = lower transportation costs!

Students participate in **hands-on STEM activities that directly tie to Virginia Standards of Learning**. These include macroinvertebrate studies, water quality monitoring, watershed discussions, habitat exploration, adaptations, and life cycle experiences.

**ANS can be your school’s partner in Project Based Learning! ANS partners closely with the LCPS Science Department for rich programming. Use this experience to begin or support your PBL!** The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) has been delivering quality field trip programming at the Rust Nature Sanctuary for over 10 years. **Only qualified ANS Naturalists will run these programs.**

Book your next field trip to Rust Nature Sanctuary and visit our 68 acres of habitats, including meadow, forest, pond and vernal pool. For more information, email Susanne Ortmann at [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org).

## Astonishing Earth Hike

A fall walk open to all ages at Rust

**Saturday, November 4 (10-11:30 am)**

**Cost: \$7.50 per person, includes hot cider**

The 68 acres of the Rust Nature Sanctuary are in their full autumn glory. This nature hike, led by NOVA Parks Roving Naturalist, David Garcia, and Susanne Ortmann of the Audubon Naturalist Society, aims to explore the abundant life found in this area and the fascinating changes that happen during Fall. Offered in partnership with NOVA Parks.

Space is limited to 15. To reserve your spot, email [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org) and mail a check made out to ANS to The Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175.



Photo by Karen Steffel

# Adult 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 or carpool.

*Wild places are closer than you think.®*

## ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit [www.ANShome.org/adults](http://www.ANShome.org/adults).
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).

### Paddle on the Potomac

Wednesday, September 6 (10:30 am-1:30 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Stephanie Mason

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Meet two naturalists at the Key Bridge Boathouse for a summer paddling trip around Theodore Roosevelt Island. Discover the magic of paddling around DC's historic 88.5 acre island in the Potomac beneath the boughs of magnificent sycamores, cottonwoods, silver maples, black walnuts, basswoods and river birches. Witness the blooms of many summer wildflowers growing along the shoreline and the thrill of spotting ospreys, bald eagles, herons and egrets, and the noisy kingfisher! Canoes or kayaks can be rented or you can bring your own. NOTE: registration fee does not include boat rental.

### Fridays at Widewater

Fridays (10 am-3 pm)

Section A: September 8

Section B: October 6

Section C: November 3

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Entire series \$92; nonmembers \$130

An elder of a Native American tribe from the Pacific Northwest advised: *There is more to be learned by climbing the same mountain a hundred times than by climbing a hundred different mountains.* Following this admonition, our Senior Naturalist begins a series of broad-based nature explorations along the Potomac River's C&O Canal and its varied habitats, from upland rocky woods to rich floodplain forests. On each Friday's hiking loop of 4 miles, we'll follow the same stretch of the Towpath upriver from the Widewater area to Great Falls, returning to our cars along the Berma Road trail above the Canal. As we experience the fading of summer and the arrival of autumn, we'll watch for and enjoy changes in plant life, as well as all manner of wildlife, including migrant birds, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals.

### Sleuthing for Spiders

Saturday, September 9 (1-4:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

### Fall Birding Series

A: Sunday, September 10: Ag History Farm Park, MD (John Bjerke) (7-10 am) **FULL**

B: Saturday, September 30: Huntley Meadows, VA (Mark England) (7:30-10:30 am) **FULL**

C: Sunday, October 8: Lois Green Conservation Park, MD (Mark England) (7:30-10:30 am) **FULL**

D: Saturday, October 21: Dyke Marsh, VA (Mike Bowen) (8-11 am) **FULL**

E: Sunday, October 29: Hughes Hollow, MD (John Bjerke) (8-11 am)

F: Saturday, November 4: Pennyfield Lock, MD (Mike Bowen) (8-11 am)

G: Sunday, November 12: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (John Bjerke) (8-11 am)

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$152/\$215

Our fall birding series visits seven protected areas, all 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. Most of our explorations will be on natural surface trails that may be uneven or muddy, but some destinations include mild uphill and downhill. These walks are aimed at beginning to mid-level birders, but all are welcome.

## Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 13 - Riley's Lock; B: September 27 - Carderock; C: October 11 - Violettes Lock; D: October 25 - Pennyfield Lock; E: November 8 - Widewater; F: November 22 - Swain's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

These walks are all full but please register for the waitlist online as we often get cancellations.

WAITLIST  
OPEN

## Bats About

Thursday, September 14 (7-9 pm)

Leader: Kerry Wixted

Free, but registration is required.

Come and explore the natural history of and the conservation concerns for the bats in our region with this indoor/outdoor program at our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. As the sun is setting, we'll head out outdoors on a short search for bats in the evening sky. Back inside, we'll learn about the habits and habitats of these important and fascinating mammals. Our presenter is Wildlife Education and Outreach Specialist for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

FREE

## Evening on the Canal

Friday, September 15 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Join senior naturalist Stephanie Mason on a walk through the woods and along the Potomac River's C&O Canal beginning at Swain's Lock near Potomac, MD. As day gives way to dusk — and then to nightfall — we'll look and listen for owls, foxes, bats, katydids, moths, and other nocturnal and crepuscular animals, discussing the adaptations of creatures whose "day" begins as ours ends.

## Confusing Composites

Saturday, September 16 (10:30 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Most of our area's late summer and fall-blooming wildflowers belong to the composite (Asteraceae) plant family. With many local species of asters, goldenrods, sunflowers, bonesets and more, it can be intimidating even to begin to consider IDing them. In this introductory field class, our leaders will use both meadow and woodland at Little Bennett Park in Montgomery County, MD to explain the differences between the main groups of "confusing composites" while offering tips on how to begin identifying them.

## Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park

Sunday, September 17 (3/4 day field trip)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Bring along a folding chair and cross your fingers for a good day of raptor flight at this hawk watch in Baltimore County, just outside the northern side of the Baltimore Beltway. Our trip is scheduled close to peak for the southward passage of Broadwing Hawks in massive numbers. Of course, we can't control weather conditions or migratory pulses, but our leaders will do their best to give you a productive day of birding. That will include exploring some of Cromwell Valley Park's trails for fall migrant songbirds, and perhaps even heading out to other close-by locations in the afternoon if the hawk flight is slow.

## Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers

Sunday, September 17 (8 am-noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

A park in upper Montgomery County, the Lois Green Conservation Area offers open meadows, pond and stream, and forested edges as an ideal spot for broad-based nature exploration. We'll look for butterflies and other insects, migrant and resident birds, and other wildlife against the backdrop of late summer, sun-loving wildflowers and fruiting trees. We'll walk several miles on natural surface trails with some uphill/downhill.

## Fall Flora of the Gold Mine Tract

Wednesdays (10 am-1 pm)

A: September 20

B: October 18

Leader: Marney Bruce

Each walk: members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$43; nonmembers \$61

Fall is a great season to explore the plant life of the Gold Mine Tract, a large block of forest above the C&O Canal at Great Falls Park, MD. While not a true old-growth woodland, there are towering hardwood species to study and enjoy, and it is a fine example of Piedmont forest. Each hike of up to 3 miles will explore a different stretch of this area as we search for lingering blooms, developing fruits, and changing color. Terrain underfoot will be natural surface trails, which could be muddy, over gently rolling hills. Expect a few moderate uphill/downhill sections on each hike. *There will be an admission fee to the Park unless you have an annual or Golden Age pass.*



## Conservation Cafes

Thursdays (7-8:30 pm)

Fee: \$10

September 21: Jai Cole (Montgomery Parks): Stewarding Montgomery County's stream valley parks: the green spaces that tie our neighborhoods together

October 26: Jim Lyons (formerly Department of the Interior): What Now? Public Lands and the Environment Under Trump (rescheduled from spring!)

November 16: Jorge Bogantes Montero (Anacostia Watershed Society): Countdown to 2025: A Vision to Restore the Anacostia River

Enjoy a fun evening, learn about conservation topics, and support ANS! Join us in the Woodend mansion for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on a variety of nature conservation topics. Your \$10 registration fee goes to support our ANS Conservation Program. **Register at <https://anshome.org/conservation-events>.**

**Child care available!  
See page 6.**

## Natural Heritage Series: Blue Ridge Beginnings

Friday, September 22 (10 am-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

A little more than an hour northwest of Washington lies Catoctin Mountain, the front edge of the Blue Ridge. Here, on a day of the week when visitors are few, we'll enjoy the first day of fall in Catoctin Mountain Park. We'll hike around 4 miles, at a leisurely pace, as we look for the plants and animals that inhabit the Park's woods and waterways. In addition to natural history, we'll consider the Mountain's cultural history and past land uses. *Our explorations will include some uphill and downhill hiking over rocky ground.*

## Butterfly Migrants at Glendening Preserve

Saturday, September 23 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Rick Borchelt

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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.

## Walk Among the Ancients

Saturday, September 23 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Here's a chance to learn (or re-learn) to recognize some of our native ferns and fern relatives. Aimed at beginners and those wanting to refresh their basic fern knowledge, our field trip will explore habitats along several trails at Great Falls Park, VA. *Our search for these plants of ancient lineage will cover some uneven and rocky ground, which could be muddy, but we will proceed at a slow pace.*

## Forest Bathing Walk

Sunday, September 24 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

We are happy to offer a Shinrin-yoku or forest bathing walk on a farm in Comus, MD near Sugarloaf Mountain. Numerous studies in Japan, Europe and North America have demonstrated the health benefits of spending quiet time immersed in nature, including lowered levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lowered blood pressure, increased immune system function, and elevated mood (things that ANS members already knew!). We will walk less than a mile at a slow pace and spend quiet time sitting and watching early fall wildflowers and nectaring butterflies. Our leader says this walk is "more about being than IDing." She has portable forest bathing stools to loan to each participant for the duration of the foray. Melanie welcomes any questions about this new form of nature meditation, which evolved from practices in Japan and Korea: [mcb@melaniechoukas-bradley.com](mailto:mcb@melaniechoukas-bradley.com).

**WAITLIST OPEN**

## On the Move at Cape May

Monday, September 25 (8 am) to

Tuesday, September 26 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$110; nonmembers \$150

Cape May, at New Jersey's southern tip, is known around the world as a great concentration point for southbound migrants. Staggering numbers of birds pass through Cape May when the winds come from the northwest after an autumn cold front. A great mix of habitats means there's always lots to see here, even when the winds don't bring the big migratory push. Late September is a peak time for migrating falcons, accipiters, warblers, and monarch butterflies. We plan to visit Cape May Point State Park, the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge, Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area, and other natural areas around Cape May. Overnight options include a variety of motels, hotels, B&Bs, and campgrounds in or near Cape May. Participants secure their own lodging.

## Geology Hike along Sligo Creek

Tuesday, September 26 (10:30 am-2:30pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Our hike will follow the paved Sligo Creek Trail upstream in Montgomery County for 4 miles between New Hampshire Avenue and Forest Glen Road. In its descent to the Coastal Plain, the creek has cut a gorge into the Piedmont Upland. Within the gorge are many fine exposures of Laurel Formation schist and gneiss, derived from marine sediments in a long-vanished ocean. As we march creekside, we will observe modern stream processes as well as discuss the history of the ancient bedrock. *Note: our geology hikes move farther and at a faster pace than our usual "naturalists' shuffle."*

## Window into the World of Fungi

Thursday, October 5 (7-9:30 pm)

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Free, but registration required.

FREE

Rooted, yet not plants, heterotrophs, but not animals (growing in fairy rings, yet not even fairies), fungi are members of another kingdom. Mostly hidden under the surface, fungi have evolved their own solutions to life's persistent problems. Gaining the recognition for their pivotal role in shaping the living world, they now reshape fundamental perceptions of biologists. In this lecture at our Woodend Sanctuary, we will explore the natural history and ecology of our local fungal neighbors, rather than focus on the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.

## Intro to Tree Identification

Friday, October 13 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Fall is a great time to learn to identify our local trees and shrubs. With brilliant leaves highlighting the twigs, new buds already formed, and many fruits hanging on, there are lots of distinguishing features that help sort out the various species. This program at our Woodend Sanctuary will begin indoors with a look at some techniques of tree identification, coupled with practice using a simple key. We'll then move outdoors to use our new skills to identify many of the trees growing on the grounds. Both beginners and those who want to brush up on their ID skills are welcome.

Do you want to read your *Naturalist Quarterly* online and reduce paper use and printing costs? If so, email [membership@anshome.org](mailto:membership@anshome.org) and ask to be taken off our mailing list.

## Geology of Donaldson Run and the Potomac Gorge

Saturday, October 14 (1-6 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

If you haven't been able to make it to Utah to see the deep canyons and high plateaus of Canyonlands, Arlington's Potomac Overlook Park and the adjacent Potomac River gorge provide a scaled-down replica. Of course, the local bedrock is metamorphic rather than sedimentary, but Utah can't expect to have everything! We plan an out-and-back hike of about three miles down Donaldson Run to the river and up the Potomac Gorge to Chain Bridge. The trails will definitely be rocky, with some steep sections, and there will likely be mud as well. The reward for our exertion will be excellent views of dramatic outcrops and erosional features. *Note: our geology hikes move farther and at a faster pace than our usual naturalists' shuffle.*

## Natural Heritage Hike: Calvert Cliffs State Park

Sunday, October 15 (10 am-4:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

While most visit Calvert Cliffs State Park for the marine fossils along its Chesapeake Bay beach, this park in southern Maryland offers rich natural history as well. We'll hike out to the Bay and back (total of 4 miles) as we explore coastal plain forests, marshland, and stream valley habitats. We'll look and listen for all manner of fall wildlife activity, as we make stops along the way to study plant communities in their seasonal aspects. *There is a per car fee for Park admission. Carpooling will be encouraged and facilitated with a central meeting point just outside the Beltway.*

## Walk Among the Giants

Sunday, October 22 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Walk among the giant Sycamores, Oaks, and River Birches on this seasonal series of explorations along the Potomac River just upstream of Great Falls, MD. We'll keep our eyes and ears open for all manner of wildlife while enjoying and learning to ID fall foliage. Our floodplain trail, connecting with the Towpath, is mostly level, but could be muddy as we walk our loop of roughly 2.5 miles.



Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Sep 2	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	Oct 7	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8	Oct 8	7:30 am	Fall Birding Series C	Y	12
Sep 5	6:30 am	Rock Creek Park bird walk		23	Oct 10	1:30 pm	Woodend Restoration Meadow Walk		29
Sep 6	10:30 am	Paddle on the Potomac	Y	12	Oct 11	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal C	Y	13
Sep 8	10 am	Fridays at Widewater	Y	12	Oct 12	7 pm	Crowder-Messersmith Annual Talk		27
Sep 9	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	Oct 13	10 am	Intro to Tree Identification	Y	15
"	1 pm	Sleuthing for Spiders	Y	12	"	"	Rain Garden Ribbon Cutting		6
Sep 10	7 am	Fall Birding Series A	Y	12	Oct 14	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Sep 12	10 am	Tales and Trails begins	Y	8	"	9 am	Nature Preschool ReUse It Sale		8
"	"	Rachel Carson and Friends		29	"	1 pm	Geology of Donaldson Run	Y	15
"	6 pm	Fall Woody Plant ID begins	Y	24	Oct 15	10 am	Calvert Cliffs State Park hike	Y	15
Sep 13	9 am	Naturally Latinos		32	Oct 17	1 pm	Watershed Advocacy 101 Workshop	Y	6
"	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal A	Y	13	Oct 18	10 am	Fall Flora of the Gold Mine Tract	Y	13
Sep 14	7 pm	Bat Abouts		13	Oct 19	6 pm	ANS Annual Meeting		32
"	"	Healthy Stream Biology	Y	22	Oct 21	8 am	Fall Birding Series D	Y	12
"	"	Neighborhood Community Meeting		29	"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Sep 15	6:30 pm	Evening on the Canal	Y	13	Oct 22	8 am	Walk Among the Giants	Y	15
Sep 16	6:30 am	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23	"	8:30 am	Sky Meadows State Park bird walk		23
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	Oct 24	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	18
"	9:30 am	Stream Science Field Workshop	Y	22	Oct 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	10:30 am	Confusing Composites	Y	13	"	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal D	Y	13
Sep 17	8 am	Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers	Y	13	Oct 26	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	6
"	9 am	Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park	Y	13	Oct 27	8:45 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	8
Sep 18	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian begins	Y	11	"	9:30 am	Natural and Cultural History of Ag Reserve	Y	18
"	6 pm	Chesapeake Bay Ecosystems begins	Y	24	Oct 28	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Sep 19	11 am	Creek Critters at Webb Sanctuary		22	"	"	Late Fall at Cape May	Y	18
"	7 pm	Introduction to Ecology begins	Y	24	"	10 am	Raptors on the Move at Waggoner's Gap	Y	18



Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Sep 20	10 am	Fall Flora of the Gold Mine Tract A	Y	10	Oct 29	8 am	Fall Birding Series E	Y	12
Sep 21	8:45 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	8	"	2:30 pm	Fall Tree ID for Birders		18
"	6 pm	Weather and Climate begins	Y	25	Nov 3	10 am	Fridays at Widewater	Y	12
"	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	6	Nov 4	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Sep 22	8:45 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	8	"	"	Fall Birding Series F	Y	12
"	10 am	Blue Ridge Beginnings hike	Y	14	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8
"	"	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	11	"	"	Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park	Y	19
Sep 23	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	"	10 am	Astonishing Earth Hike	Y	11
"	9 am	Walk Among the Ancients	Y	14	Nov 5	9:30 am	Blockhouse Point Conservation Park	Y	19
"	9:30 am	Know Your Invasive Plants	Y	22	Nov 8	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal E	Y	13
"	10 am	Butterfly Migrants at Glendening Preserve	Y	14	Nov 10	10 am	Art and Nature Sketchbook	Y	19
"	"	Snickers Gap Hawkwatch bird walk		23	Nov 11	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Sep 24	9:30 am	Forest Bathing Walk	Y	14	"	8:30 am	Eastern Neck NWR bird walk		23
Sep 25	8 am	On the Move at Cape May weekend	Y	14	"	9:30 am	Fall on Wheels Along the Patuxent	Y	19
"	6 pm	Chemistry for Naturalists begins	Y	24	Nov 12	8 am	Fall Birding Series G	Y	12
Sep 26	10:30 am	Geology Hike along Sligo Creek	Y	15	"	1 pm	Building Stones of Pennsylvania Avenue	Y	19
Sep 27	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	Nov 16	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	6
"	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal B	Y	13	"	7:30 pm	Bird ID Series: Sparrows and Finches	Y	19
"	7:30 pm	Rachel Carson comes to Woodend	Y	30	Nov 18	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Sep 28	6 pm	Eastern Forest Ecosystems begins	Y	25	"	9 am	Knock, Knock		20
"	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream	Y	22	"	6:30 pm	ANS Holiday Party		29
Sep 30	7:30 am	Fall Birding Series B	Y	12					
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18					
Oct 1	7:30 am	Meadowside Nature Center bird walk		23					
Oct 5	7 pm	Window into the World of Fungi		15					
Oct 6	10 am	Fridays at Widewater	Y	12					
Oct 7	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18					

● Special Event  
● Children and Family Program  
● Adult Program  
● Natural History Field Studies  
● Rust (VA) Activities and Events  
**Y = Fee-based program**

## Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Fall Walk: Tuesday, October 24 (10 am-Noon)  
 Winter Walk: Wednesday, January 17 (10 am-Noon)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Explore the Blair Native Plant Garden, located just outside the Sanctuary Shop, with our Senior Naturalist who helped develop the garden and its educational focus. Find out more about the values of gardening with native plant species, including: lower maintenance; more value to native birds, butterflies and other insects, including pollinators; reduced negative impact on local ecosystems, and more. We'll discuss native alternatives to popular non-native species such as English ivy, as well as resources for broadening one's knowledge and understanding of plants native to the mid-Atlantic. You're welcome to bring along a bag lunch to eat with the leader after the walks, which are scheduled to highlight seasonal aspects of the Garden.

## The Natural and Cultural History of the Ag Reserve

Friday, October 27 (9:30 am-4 pm)  
 Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Stephanie Mason  
 Members \$36; nonmembers \$54

Thirty-five years ago, with regional farmland rapidly diminishing, Montgomery County had the foresight to set aside more than 90,000 acres of farms and open space in the western and northern third of the county as an "Agricultural Reserve." Come explore this scenic, biologically diverse area and learn how it contributes to clean air and water, the availability of fresh local produce, and the overall quality of life for residents of the metro area. Our trip will visit a working CSA farm, a fall produce and pumpkin stand, an historical site, and perhaps an artist's studio, time permitting, to experience the rich diversity of plants and wildlife (and human livelihoods) that thrive in the Reserve's fields, meadows, wetlands, and rocky woodlands. We'll begin and end the tour in some of the beautiful parkland along its borders: Seneca Creek State Park and Dickerson Conservation Park, site of an American sycamore, officially the largest known tree in MD.

## Free Beginner's Bird Walks Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. at Woodend

Weekly walks through the end of November, then first Saturday of the month December-February. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at [www.anshome.org/adults](http://www.anshome.org/adults).

## Raptors on the Move at Waggoner's Gap

Saturday, October 28 (3/4 day field trip)  
 Leaders: Liam and Laura McGranaghan  
 Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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

## Late Fall at Cape May

Saturday, October 28 (8 am)-Sunday, October 29 (4 pm)  
 Leader: Mark Garland  
 Members \$110; nonmembers \$150

Cape May is one of the premier spots in North America to see concentrations of southbound birds during the fall migration. October's end typically brings the year's largest concentrations of coastal water birds, including scoters, cormorants, and gannets, along with temperate songbird migrants – those species whose migrations stop before reaching the tropics. When the weather conditions are right in late fall, there can be thousands of songbirds: sparrows, blackbirds, American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, Gray Catbirds, kinglets, and others. Some owls are migrating too, and on Saturday evening we may have a chance to visit researchers working at night to band them. On Saturday we'll visit areas near the southern tip of Cape May, while on Sunday we'll move to the northern part of Cape May County. *Participants secure their own lodging. Many options, including camping, are available.*

## Fall Tree ID for Birders

Sunday, October 29 (2:30-4 pm)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Free, but registration required.

**FREE**

With trees ablaze in fall colors and their fruits hanging high, we'll learn the identifying characteristics visible through binoculars of the most common species of trees and shrubs along the C&O Canal towpath upstream of Carderock.



This ANS service offers weekly reports of sightings of rare or notable birds. Email [voice@ANShome.org](mailto:voice@ANShome.org) or visit [ANShome.org/voice](http://ANShome.org/voice).

## Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park

Saturday, November 4 (9 am-2 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

On the fourth in our 2017 series of walks in Rock Creek Park with author/naturalist Melanie Choukas-Bradley, we will hike for 4-5 miles on a route the leader will choose for its good hiking, fall foliage and a variety of fall fruits. Wear your hiking shoes or boots and pack water, snacks and a picnic lunch for a real hike with plenty of nature stops on Rock Creek Park's wonderful network of trails. Exact route for hike to be determined closer to the date of the outing.

## Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

Sunday, November 5 (9:30 am-1 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

We continue our series of field trips to some of the botanically rich, but often underappreciated, Montgomery County Parks. On this hike we'll visit Blockhouse Point, along the Potomac River, where we'll explore the preserve's notable, contiguous forest of typical Piedmont plant species, as well as more uncommon ones. We'll admire and ID fall blooms, fruits, and foliage. We'll cover 2-4 miles, with some uphill/downhill and a hike out to a bluff above the Potomac, where views should be nice this time of year. On this moderate hike, our leader, the forest ecologist for the County, will focus on natural history but she won't overlook the area's cultural history.

## Art and Nature Sketchbook

Friday, November 10 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Create a nature sketchbook page following a short walk at our Woodend Sanctuary with the artist of two Sugarloaf Mountain books and the Illustrated Agricultural Reserve Map. According to our leader, this activity can be a relaxing way to sit and record seasonal observations. We will spend a short time outside looking closely at nature while sharing observations of native tree specimens. Moving inside, Tina will show you how to create a journal sketchbook page using line, color and handwritten notes to describe your walk in the woods. After showing you a few sketchbook examples, she will introduce you to her favorite sketching art supplies and guide you through a sketch. Our leader says the only experience required is a love for our native trees. An art supply list (approx. \$20) will be provided with your confirmation letter.

## Fall on Wheels Along the Patuxent

Saturday, November 11 (9:30 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$36; nonmembers \$50

Dust off your bike and join us to explore the woods and wetlands along the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, MD. We'll use the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Tour roadway, closed to cars on this day, to visit a variety of habitats in our search for fall activity in the natural world. We'll dismount often to look for late fall blooms and colorful foliage plus all manner of wildlife, as we cover the Tour's reach from Patuxent River Park to Merkle Wildlife Refuge. Our round-trip ride will be between 5-8 miles. Bring your own bike.

## Building Stones of Pennsylvania Avenue

Sunday, November 12 (1-4:30 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

The buildings and monuments along the Avenue of the Presidents are faced with a variety of granites, marbles, and sandstones. We will start at the Federal Triangle Metro station and walk about 3 miles, examining the exteriors of various structures between the White House and the Capitol. We will discuss the geology and place of origin of the building stones, as well as explore aspects of political, cultural, and economic history related to the choice and use of material. All portions of our route will be paved. *The pace set and distance covered on this geology field trip will be faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."*

## Bird ID Series: Sparrows and Finches

Thursday, November 16 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, November 18 (half-day field trip)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members \$42; nonmembers \$58

Lecture only: members \$20; nonmembers \$28



Sparrows and finches offer beginning and intermediate birders some of their most difficult ID challenges. On Thursday evening, our leader will use an illustrated lecture to provide identification help on these often confusing species. Our field trip will take us to one or more nearby natural areas

where a variety of these birds can be studied.



## Knock, Knock

Saturday, November 18 (9 am-12 pm)

Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves

Free, but registration required.

**FREE**

On this approximately 4-mile roundtrip bird walk along the Canal's towpath at Riley's Lock, we'll work to see or at least hear all 7 species of woodpeckers (a grand-slam!) that frequent our woods this time of year. Our walk is aimed at beginning birders. *This walk will go faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."* Limited to 12 participants.

## Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, November 19 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$36; nonmembers \$50

Late fall signals the arrival of thousands of ducks and geese in the mid-Atlantic region. Join us on a visit to Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, near Chestertown, MD, to search for waterfowl in the wetland habitats of this island, situated near the mouth of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay. Eastern Neck NWR has been designated a Globally Important Bird Area for Tundra Swans. More than 2,000 swans spend the early part of winter at the refuge before moving farther south to wintering grounds in North Carolina. Others stay at the refuge throughout the winter, along with an estimated 35,000 waterfowl of other species. In addition to our search for migrant waterfowl, we'll look for raptors, sparrows, and other seasonal birds.

## Winter Birding at Black Hill

Section A: Saturday, December 2 (8:30-11 am)

Section B: Sunday, January 7 (8:30-11 am)

Section C: Saturday, February 3 (8:30-11 am)

Section D: Sunday, March 4 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Mark England

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

Entire series \$72/\$101

The winter months can be an ideal time to learn more about birds and birding, and Black Hill Regional Park, in upper Montgomery County, is an ideal outdoor classroom for this study. Each walk in our series, intended for beginning to mid-level birders, will visit one or more sites in the Park in a search for waterfowl, sparrows, raptors, and other both resident and overwintering species. The Park's habitats are varied and include wetlands and Little Seneca Lake, as well as forest and field. Join us for the entire series and observe the seasonal changes in numbers and species, or just sign up for individual walks.

## Late Autumn Tree Walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island

Saturday, December 2 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join the author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and *City of Trees* for a late autumn tree walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island. With winter-in-waiting, we will walk through the floodplain forest admiring and identifying sycamore, several species of maples, black walnut, American basswood, pawpaw, cottonwood, American beech and several species of oaks. Melanie will share many tricks for identifying trees as they prepare for winter, including bark, buds, growth habit and habitat. As we stroll the island's perimeter on this late fall day, we'll also be able to enjoy the vistas of the Georgetown waterfront and presidential memorials. *There may not be restroom facilities open on the island at this time of year. Those who are sensitive to noise should note that the island lies under the flight path of Reagan National Airport.*

## Natural Heritage Series: Gettysburg National Park

Sunday, December 3 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: David Farner

Members: \$32; nonmembers: \$46

In 1863 Gettysburg's landscape was primarily composed of farm fields and pastures. Today the Park maintains a look similar to that of 1863 on almost 3000 acres. The result is one of the largest protected grasslands in Pennsylvania. On our visit, we'll hike up to 3 miles at battlefield sites such as Devil's Den, The Wheatfield and Cemetery Ridge. We'll search for overwintering birds and other wildlife, while considering their survival adaptations. We'll also consider how the landscape influenced the course of the battle and helped the Union achieve victory. Our explorations will include some uphill and downhill hiking, but we'll proceed at a fairly leisurely pace.

## Geology of Holmes Run Gorge

Saturday, December 9 (12-4 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Alexandria sits atop a wedding cake of overlapping and intersecting terraces created by the Potomac River and its ancestral streams. Holmes Run, a relatively large upland watercourse in the northwestern quadrant of the city, has sliced through the layers down to the bedrock on which they all rest. We will walk about 3 miles on good trails and mostly level ground through the Holmes Run Gorge, examining outcrops of granite, schist and partially formed sedimentary rock. The discussion will focus on the ancient origins of the various rock types we see and on changes that have happened within the gorge in historic time. An added bonus will be a miniature magnolia bog!

## Birding Hotspots in Loudoun County

Sunday, December 10 (8 am-4 pm)

Leaders: Joe Coleman and Laura McGranaghan  
Members (ANS & LWC) \$36; nonmembers \$50

Join two of Loudoun County's top birders on a daylong search for sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds at some of this County's richest birding destinations. The group will meet at in Leesburg, then move on to several locations before ending the day in the Lucketts area. Possible locations, depending on what species have been recently sighted, include: Beaverdam Reservoir, Banshee Reeks, the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, and the Dulles Wetlands. All levels of birders are welcome. Co-sponsored with the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC).

## Winter Walks Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: January 10 - Carderock

Section B: January 24 - Widewater

Section C: February 7 - Swain's Lock

Section D: March 7 - Pennyfield Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk: members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$87/\$123

Join our Senior Naturalist for one or all of these walks along the C&O Canal as we look for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, practice winter botany skills, and enjoy the expansive views along the Potomac River that this season provides. Carpooling will be available from Woodend.

## Winter Hikes Along the River

A: Saturday, January 13 (full-day hike) Patuxent River, MD (4-5.5 mi)

B: Sunday, February 4 (full-day hike) Potomac River, MD (5.6 mi)

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar

Each hike members \$38; nonmembers \$52

Take on two of your New Year's resolutions at once: spend more time exploring nature AND get more exercise by signing up for one or both of our hikes along local waterways. We'll search for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills. Hike A uses a roadway closed to traffic on the day of our outing as we explore the coastal plain woods and wetlands along the Patuxent River in Prince George's County. Hike B follows the historic C&O Canal towpath downstream from Point of Rocks to the Monocacy Aqueduct near Dickerson, MD. *These hikes are designed to offer a natural history experience for persons who want to move farther and a bit faster than the pace of most ANS field trips. Hikes could be modified depending on weather and ground conditions.*



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## Winter Weeds Walk

Sunday, January 14 (2-4:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Not all herbaceous plants disappear in the winter. Many persist as dried stalks and seed clusters, with a beauty to match the season. Join our Senior Naturalist for a walking introduction to winter weed and wildflower identification at the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management area near Poolesville, MD. We'll also consider seed dispersal strategies and examine plant skeletons for signs of summer insect activity, such as galls, chrysalids, cocoons, and egg cases.

## Introduction to the Natural History of Lichens

Thursday, January 18 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, January 20 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Dr. Paula DePriest

Members \$42; nonmembers \$58

Lecture only: members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Winter is the perfect season to search for the varied hues and forms of lichens, the fascinating and mysterious inhabitants of unpolluted ecosystems. On Thursday night, Dr. Paula DePriest of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, will introduce us to the natural history of lichens through an illustrated lecture. Saturday's field trip to the Widewater area along the C&O Canal will give participants a chance to study and identify lichens in their natural environment.

## Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill

A: Sunday, January 21 (3-5:30 pm)

B: Sunday, February 11 (3:30-6 pm)

Leader: Mark England

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

You'll want to bundle up for these birding treks to the now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail, a familiar birding spot in upper Montgomery County. As afternoon fades to dusk in the open terrain here, we'll search for resident and overwintering species, including Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. Our leader will bring along a scope for distant bird viewing. Our visit to this area which is "closed to the public" is by special permission.

Look for details on these two winter programs at [ANSHome.org/adults](http://ANSHome.org/adults):

Natural History of Owls

FREE

Thursday, January 25 (7-9 pm)

Winter Tree ID for Birders

FREE

Saturday, January 27 (2:30-4 pm)

# Stream Science

For 25 years, ANS has been teaching the natural history of aquatic ecology and training volunteer stream monitors who track the health of our region's streams. Learn from the experts: study stream science in our introductory classes, and you just might be inspired to become a stream monitor yourself! Registration required: register online at [www.anshome.org/adults](http://www.anshome.org/adults).

## Introduction to Stream Science

**Classroom Session: Healthy Stream Biology\***  
**Thursday, September 14 (7-9:30 pm)**  
**Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD**  
**Members \$15; nonmembers \$30**

In the classroom, we will explore how "benthic macroinvertebrates" – organisms that live in the bottom of streams – help us assess streams' health. We will learn to identify these organisms to the taxonomic level of order through a PowerPoint presentation and by identifying preserved specimens through a hands-on session with microscopes.

**Field Workshop**  
**(site TBA, Montgomery County, MD)\***  
**Saturday, September 16 (9:30 am-12 pm)**  
**Members \$15; nonmembers \$30**

In the field workshop, we will visit a healthy stream to practice monitoring techniques and to collect and identify the benthic macroinvertebrates we find.

\*Interested in ANS' stream monitoring program? These classes are recommended for all volunteer monitors and those interested in joining the program. To learn more about classes or becoming a monitor, contact Cathy Wiss at [cathy.wiss@anshome.org](mailto:cathy.wiss@anshome.org) or call 301-652-9188 x19.



## How to Read Your Stream\*

**Thursday, September 28 (7-9:30 pm)**  
**Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD**  
**Members \$15; nonmembers \$30**

Learn about the influence of land uses on streams, stream character and dynamics, bank erosion, bar formation, substrate composition, different velocity-depth regimes, and the importance of riffles and riparian vegetation.

## Know Your Invasive Plants

**Saturday, September 23 (9:30 am-12 pm)**  
**Leader: Diyan Rahaman**  
**Woodend Sanctuary (Teale), Chevy Chase, MD**  
**Members \$15; nonmembers \$30**

Invasive plants that kill or bring down mature trees can seriously alter stream health, wildlife habitat value, and ecosystem function. Learn to identify non-native invasive plants at Woodend and in nearby Rock Creek Park. An ANS/Rock Creek Conservancy partnership.

Check out our recent report and map for the last 5 years of stream science data on page 7!

## Creek Critters at Webb Sanctuary

**Tuesday, September 19 (11 am-1 pm)**  
**Webb Sanctuary, Clifton, VA**  
**Free, but registration required.**

Please join us for this special event! You will learn how to find and identify creek critters (macroinvertebrates) living in Popes Head Creek, and generate Stream Health Reports based on your findings using the **Creek Critters** smartphone app. The stream site is a 10-minute downhill walk from the parking area. Participants will work in shallow water (less than 10 inches deep).

This is a FREE event, but registration is required at [anshome.org/conservation-events](http://anshome.org/conservation-events). Children over 10 years old are welcome to participate.



Download our Creek Critters app at [anshome.org/creek-critters](http://anshome.org/creek-critters).

Photo by Ben Israel

# Free Birding Trips September-December

These free, volunteer-led walks offer birders a chance to explore new areas with other birding enthusiasts. Visit ANShome.org/Adults for complete directions, additional trips, and more information. Turn to page 12 for the list of fee-based, instructional classes and field trips for beginning to mid-level birders.

## SEPTEMBER

### Tuesday, September 5 Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

One-third day walk to view residents, early migrants, and fall warblers in DC's famous city park. **Meet time/place:** 6:30 am in Rock Creek Park at Picnic Area #18, about three-quarters of a mile south of the Nature Center on Ridge Road. **Make reservation** with leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859; if necessary, ask for directions when making reservations.

### Saturday, September 16 Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince George's Co., MD

Trip is full. To be put on the waitlist, contact John Bjerke at johnbjerke1@mac.com.

### Saturday, September 23 Snickers Gap Hawkwatch (between Bluemont & Berryville, VA)

Two-thirds day. Joint trip with MBC/MOS. Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. **Meet time/place:** 10 am. Meet at commuter parking lot at VA 7 and VA 601. **Make reservation** with leaders Joan Boudreau and Bob Abrams at icepeep@aol.com or 703-734-1238 (home). Bring tripods, scopes, chairs, pack lunch, and wind gear. Call leaders for directions.

### Wednesday, September 27 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

Half day. Songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and other raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am inside the refuge at central parking lot. **Make reservation** (6-adult limit) with leader Jim Waggener, 703-567-3555.

## OCTOBER

### Sunday, October 1 Meadowside Nature Center, Rockville, MD

Half day. Late songbird migrants and resident songbirds in varied habitat. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at the Nature Center parking lot on Meadowside Lane, off Muncaster Mill Road. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Marc Liebermann at mdlieberm@gmail.com.

**Sunday, October 22**  
**Sky Meadows State Park, Fauquier County, VA**  
Half day. Sparrows, raptors, Red-headed Woodpeckers, other late fall migrants. **Meet time/place:** 8:30 am at main parking lot near Visitor Center. From 495 in Virginia, take I-66 west for 40 miles to exit 23, then Rte. 17 north for 6.5 miles. Turn left on Edmonds Lane. Drive half mile to park contact station, then continue up hill to parking lot. Entrance fee: \$5. **Make reservation** with leader Scott Baron at baron.scott@gmail.com.

### Wednesday, October 25 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See September 27 listing for details.

## NOVEMBER

### Saturday, November 11 Eastern Neck NWR, Kent County, MD

Full day. Expect to finish around 2:30 pm. Good variety of waterfowl, some waterbirds, gulls, and terns as well as landbirds, hawks, and eagles in mixed farm, woodland, pond, and bay areas. Bring pack lunch and warm drinks. **Meet time/place:** 8:30 am at the Tundra Swan Boardwalk. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with leader Paul DeAnna at ppdeanna47@gmail.com or 202-544-2680.

### Sunday, November 19 Mattawoman Wildlands, Marbury, Charles County, MD

Half day. Joint trip with SoMD Audubon. Large concentrations of waterfowl on the Mattawoman Creek, along with songbirds, woodpeckers (some red-headed), and raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:45 am at Lackey High School parking lot, 3000 Chicamuxen Road, Indian Head, MD 20640. Bring waterproof shoes or low boots, and dress for possible wind. Be prepared for one-mile walk to and from the head of the trail and a half-mile walk on uneven forest trail. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Lynne Wheeler at 301-751-8097 (prefer text) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

**Saturday, November 25**  
**Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery County, MD**  
One-third day. Hawks, sparrows, finches, and other woodland birds. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Zion Road parking lot. Waterproof footwear strongly recommended. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leaders Len Bisson and Lisa Norwalk at lhnorwalk@gmail.com.

### Wednesday, November 29 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See September 27 listing for details.

## DECEMBER

**Sunday, December 3**  
**Huntley Meadows, Fairfax County, VA**  
Half day. Wintering waterfowl and other winter residents, Bald Eagles a possibility. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot. **Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Stephen Jones at srjones1111@aol.com or 301-320-3518.

### Wednesday December 20 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See September 27 listing for details.



# Natural History Field Studies



This popular program, cosponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Graduate School USA, 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 is awarded for completion of a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs).

Classes are offered at several locations around the DC metro area, including the Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD, and nature centers and other locations in Virginia, as well as the Capital Gallery in downtown DC, which is Metro accessible. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit ANShome.org/adults.

## Chesapeake Bay Ecosystems

**NATH8216E, 3 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm**

**Class meetings: September 18-November 27**

**Field trip dates: 2 Saturdays in October**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Terry McTigue**

Discover the dynamic nature of the estuarine environment through study of the interaction between basic physical, chemical and biological processes in the Chesapeake Bay. Explore biological and geochemical cycles and discuss the interaction between nutrients and overall productivity affecting the health of the Bay. Examine the effects of pollution and resources management and the processes that influence temperature and salinity distributions. (Students split the cost of the day-long boat ride, usually about \$50.)

## Chemistry for Naturalists

**NEW**

**NATH7129E, 3 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Mondays, 6-9 pm**

**Class meetings: September 25-December 4**

**Field trip date: December 2**

**Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro)**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Joe Marx**

Study the basic chemical principles that operate in natural environments. Learn to recognize the evidence of chemical processes in a landscape. By adding basic chemistry to the study and interpretation of local ecology, learn to form rudimentary but accurate models of the principal chemical processes in the environment. The course is completely descriptive, does not involve mathematics or homework problems, and is suitable for both field studies and horticulture.

**If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, courses may be cancelled.**

## Introduction to Ecology

**NATH1160E, 2 credits**

**Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm**

**Class meetings: September 19-November 21**

**Field trip dates: October 7 and November 4, with one TBA, optional**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Jane Huff**

A fundamental understanding of ecology and the physical and biological principles on which ecosystems depend is essential for any naturalist. In this course students learn to interpret the patterns and processes of nature by studying energy flow, food webs, biogeochemical cycles, population dynamics, communities, behavioral and evolutionary ecology, biodiversity, biomes and plant/animal interactions. Modern ecological issues such as habitat loss, species extinctions, environmental chemicals and climate change will be considered. A previous course in biology is strongly recommended. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed.

## Fall Woody Plant Identification

**NATH7145E, 3 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Tuesdays, 6-8 pm**

**Class meetings: September 12-November 7**

**Field trip dates: September 23, October 14 and 28**

**Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro)**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Emily Ferguson**

As summer fades and fall colors emerge, do you wonder which trees contribute to the kaleidoscope brightening our environment? Now's the time to take another item off of your 'to do' list and learn to identify the trees surrounding you. Participants will study the major woody plant families and species found in the Mid-Atlantic's forest communities. Field trips feature the use of recognition characteristics and botanical keys to identify many local woody plants. Students should have a 10x hand lens.



# Fall Courses September-December

## Eastern Forest Ecosystems

NATH8215E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-9 pm

Class meetings: September 28-December 7

Field trip dates: October 7 and 21, and November 4

Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro)

Tuition: \$365

Instructors: Joe Marx and Stephanie Mason

The native vegetation in most of the Mid-Atlantic region is temperate deciduous forest. In the lecture portion of this course, we will learn how history, geography, evolution, climate, bedrock and soil determine the nature of our woodlands. We will then look at the various types of organism that populate our forest ecosystems and study how webs of matter and energy bind them together. The final lectures will discuss patterns of short-term and long-term change within the Eastern forest. Three full-day field trips—to Appalachian, Piedmont and Coastal Plain locales—will provide hands-on experience with some of the plant and animal species that characterize the major forest communities of our area. There will be no class on October 19.

## Weather and Climate

NATH 7140E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8:30 pm

Class meetings: September 21–November 16

Field trip dates: TBA

Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro)

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Sean Potter

This course explores fundamental concepts related to weather and climate. Students will learn the physical processes that make up Earth's atmosphere and drive local, regional and global circulation and weather patterns. Topics include weather map analysis and forecasting, weather satellite imagery, clouds and cloud development, and severe storms and hurricanes. Other relevant topics, such as El Niño and global climate change, will also be discussed.

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Find details on Winter NHFS classes, starting in January, at [ANShome.org/adults](http://ANShome.org/adults)

## Winter Bird Life

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Gemma Radko

## Animal Behavior

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jane Huff

## U.S. Conservation History

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jean Mansavage

**NEW**

## Human Ecology

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Gogi Kalka

## Land-Use Principles

Wednesdays, Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro)

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

25

## Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

Experience gained on field trips is essential to these courses, so students should not register for classes when field trips overlap.

Registration may be completed:

- in person at the Grad School Registrar's Office, 8 am-7 pm, Monday-Friday
- online at [graduateschool.edu](http://graduateschool.edu)
- by phone at 202-314-3300 or toll-free at 888-744-GRAD
- by FAX: 866-329-4723
- by mail: Registrar's office, Suite 120, 600 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20024

## BOOKSHOP OPEN!

Our Sanctuary Shop will be open 30 minutes prior to the first night of classes at Woodend. Students can buy books and other items at a 20% discount! We usually carry textbooks for classes, but call 301-652-3606 to confirm.

# Nature Travel

*Discover a new world!*

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

## Honduras: Spectacular Pico Bonito Lodge

November 11-18, 2017

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & local guides

This trip is full but call to be added to the waitlist.

**WAITLIST**

## South Florida – Exploring the Dynamic Everglades

January 20-28, 2018

Leaders: Tom & Judy Gire; Paul Pisano

Say goodbye to the northern winter and discover in southern Florida a vibrant landscape that teems with life throughout the seasons. Visit forested habitats ranging from salty mangrove swamps to tropical hardwood forest groves. See open habitats including seasonally flooded freshwater marshes dominated by sawgrass and the bizarre coastal prairie, where salty soils support a unique plant community. Watch for Florida's abundant wildlife in each habitat and expect to see a kaleidoscope of colorful birds and other creatures. Please see our website for itinerary, cost and registration information.

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

February 16-March 3, 2018

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos "Charlie" Gomez

This trip is full but call to be added to the waitlist.

**WAITLIST**

## California's Coastal Diversity

March 17-24, 2018

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn & Rob Gibbs

The coastal stretch between California's Point Reyes and Morro Bay is one of the richest in natural beauty and species variety in the country. The timing and itinerary for this ANS tour is designed so travelers can enjoy the best of what this route offers: Tule elk, grey whales, elephant seals, sea otters, hundreds of bird species, redwoods, estuaries, scenic overlooks, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Morro Bay. Contact Carol at [carol.hayes@ANSHome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@ANSHome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 to receive information as soon as it becomes available.

## Alaska: Puffins, Grizzlies, and the Beauty of the North

August 8-19, 2018

Leaders: Mark Garland and Jordan Rutter

Experience the unmatched scenic beauty and rich natural history of Alaska. We'll visit coastal areas at Kenai Fjords National Park and Prince William Sound, then head inland to visit forest, mountain, lake, and tundra habitat between Anchorage and Denali National Park. Our trip includes 2 boat trips and a park bus ride in Denali to the Eielson Visitor Center. Expect to see birds, mammals, wildflowers, and more. Likely sightings include Tufted Puffin, Boreal Chickadee, Arctic Tern, Red-necked Grebe, Bald Eagle, Grizzly Bear, Sea Otter, and Humpback Whales. Contact Carol at [carol.hayes@ANSHome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@ANSHome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 to receive information as soon as it becomes available.

## Yellowstone: Autumn Magic in America's First Park

September 13-22, 2018

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Mark England



Photo by Susan Blaha

Yellowstone, a natural wonderland set aside as the world's first National Park, is an enormously popular park, with huge crowds of visitors often gathering in summer

around Old Faithful, Yellowstone Falls, and other popular attractions. The crowds vanish when September arrives, however, and autumn brings cooler weather and a flurry of activity to the park's wildlife community. Many agree that this is the best time to visit Yellowstone. Join us for this journey to Yellowstone during the magical month of September to see a great variety of Yellowstone's wildlife while learning about many aspects of this region's unique natural history. Contact Carol at [carol.hayes@ANSHome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@ANSHome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 to receive information as soon as it becomes available.

## Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund News

The Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund is ANS's international outreach program, providing micro-grants for local conservation and education projects in developing countries. Grantees must:

- Protect endangered species & habitats
- Be ecologically sustainable
- Provide public education
- Have lasting significance to local residents

The 2017 grants were awarded to **Nigeria** for a project to protect Cross River communities from the planned construction of a superhighway; to **Cameroon** to promote conservation of the endangered goliath frog; to **Belize** student and public education programs focused on the endangered goliath grouper; and to **Ecuador** for programs with indigenous people in support of the critically endangered Ecuadorian brown-headed spider monkey.

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

## Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Annual Talk: "Some Mammals I Have Known" featuring Don Messersmith

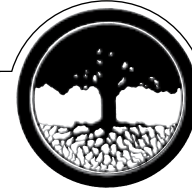
Thursday, October 12 (7-9 pm)  
Woodend Sanctuary

Don Messersmith is best known for his classes and other activities related to birds and insects, but in his worldwide travels he has also met and photographed many mammals - some at rather close quarters. For this year's annual Crowder-Messersmith Conservation



Fund lecture he will show photographs of some of the more unusual ones as well as better known ones that he has encountered on every continent. He will relate how some of these encounters led to some exciting adventures such as eluding a charging rogue elephant, chasing away a herd of zebras, being bitten by an antechinus (a what!?), disturbing a romantic lion, and a sleeping elephant seal.

Light refreshments served. Please RSVP to Carol Hayes at [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 by October 6. Contributions to the Crowder-Messersmith Fund will be gratefully accepted.



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## Naturally Latinos Champions of the Environment

Learn more about our Champions on our website at [www.anshome.org/conferences](http://www.anshome.org/conferences)



### **Serenella Linares, Co-Chair, Naturally Latinos**

As School Programs Manager at ANS and Co-Chair of Naturally Latinos, Serenella Linares is dedicated to sparking nature curiosity and nature stewardship through environmental education. Serenella is known around ANS for being expert in two things: making learning fun (for children and adults) and mycology (mushroom knowledge). She rightly observes, "Science in the past has been very dry, and it still is, for some groups. It's great to allow audiences to explore nature phenomena, sometimes for the first time, and understand, by the end of the lesson, that the curious thing they were exploring is science."

## Champions



### **David Fraser-Hidalgo, Delegate, District 15, Maryland House of Representatives**

David Fraser-Hidalgo has represented District 15 in Montgomery County in the House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly since 2013. He is a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee. In 2017, Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo helped pass the first Legislative Hydraulic Fracturing Prohibition in the United States and The Clean Cars Act of 2017, which will extend the EV incentive to 2020.



### **Albert Arevalo, Volunteer Coordinator, Brookside Gardens Nature Center, DC Coordinator, Latino Outdoors**

Albert Arevalo is the Volunteer Coordinator at Brookside Gardens Nature Center, part of the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission. In his work, he is committed to increasing access of the Hispanic community to public lands and educating students about opportunities for careers in the environmental field.

### **Adam Ortiz, Director, Department of the Environment for Prince George's County**

As Director for the Department of the Environment for Prince George's County, MD, Adam Ortiz heads a 400 person, \$160M agency dedicated to recycling, composting, clean water, renewable energy and humane animal care.



### **Dr. Patricia Delgado, Superintendent, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary**

Born and raised in Costa Rica, Patricia Delgado is currently the Superintendent of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, managing 1,700 acres of natural lands along the Patuxent River Estuary. She coordinates and implements research, education, stewardship, and volunteer-driven programs.



### **Environmental Justice and Action Promotores, Chispa de Maryland - League of Conservation Voters Fund**

Chispa Maryland's 2016 Class of Environmental Justice and Action Promotores, Prince George's County, is a group of 14 Latino community members who were selected to participate in Chispa Maryland's highest volunteer program.

*From left to right, the 14 Promotores are: Mayra Patricia Coreas, Elsa Aracely Vargas, María V. Marroquín, Edith Morejón Márquez, Rosario Reyes, Ramón Reyes, Gladis López, María del Rosario De León Barrios, Brenda Nereyda Barrios Ovalle, Ma Alicia Silva Santos, Claudia Sacramento M., María Belén Narváez, María S. Guardado and Cándida Rosa García.*

### **Pablo Blank, Immigrant Integration Programs Manager, CASA**

Pablo Blank is an expert on outreach to the Latinx community, including on environmental issues. He holds a Master's degree in Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility and is on the Board of Conservation Montgomery. He is also a member of "Granito de Arena," a Latino organization focused on environmental issues. Pablo was a member of ANS's Woodend 2065 Council charged with helping review the Master Plan.



## Biodiversity Here We Come!

Long-awaited biodiversity at Woodend Sanctuary has begun in earnest! On July 26, the Montgomery County Board of Appeals granted ANS a variance to install a deer fence at Woodend Sanctuary. The variance came after ANS changed its original fence design in response to neighbors' concerns.

So here we are now in this new and happy phase for you, and us, and the environment.

More than 30 precious volunteers (pictured below) immediately responded to our call for fence clearing help. Hardy volunteers brought clippers, loppers, trimmers, muscle, sweat and determination - and they got the job done! We are so grateful to our volunteers who understand our mission and help us realize it.

By taking on fence clearing themselves, volunteers set the stage for restoration to begin and preserved funds for restoration plantings. This means we can now swiftly install our habitat-rescuing, native plant protecting, perimeter deer fence - completely funded by generous ANS members.

In addition to those working on the fence project, our Blair Garden, Rain Garden, Meadow Restoration and Invasive Removal teams and ANS Volunteer Master Naturalists, who are conducting species inventories all over the sanctuary, are playing key roles in reviving Woodend's biodiversity. The inventories will provide baseline data on species of birds, amphibians, insects and plants at Woodend. The data will allow us to measure and chart the return of species once deer pressure is removed.

What species do you hope will return? - the understory-loving Eastern Towhee? a nesting pair of Wood Thrushes? We hope to see a giant rise in the number of native butterfly species - just as our friends at Meadowlark Gardens saw butterfly diversity more than double from 21 to 56 species following their deer fence installation.

It will be as much fun to watch restoration projects where staff and volunteers play an active role as it will be to watch the biodiversity that Mother Nature herself orchestrates.

To be part of the exciting restoration of Woodend Nature Sanctuary, sign up today at [www.anshome.org/volunteer](http://www.anshome.org/volunteer).



Please join us at Woodend for these fall events celebrating our 120th Anniversary and September as Rachel Carson Month:

- Tuesday, September 12 @ 10 am **Rachel Carson and Her Friends**, a FREE ANS special presentation with author Linda Lear. Refreshments will be served.
- Wednesday, September 27 @ 7:30 pm **Living History- Rachel Carson comes to Woodend**. The past ANS Board Member and environmental visionary comes alive in a performance by award-winning actress and scholar, Leslie Goddard. Wine and cheese will be served. Purchase tickets online at [anshome.org/events-calendar](http://anshome.org/events-calendar).
- Tuesday, October 10 @ 1:30 pm: **Woodend Restoration Meadow Walk**. Stroll through meadows and discuss what Woodend restoration means for ANS with Executive Director Lisa Alexander. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about these events, please contact Allie Henn at [Allie.Henn@anshome.org](mailto:Allie.Henn@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x12.

## Save the Date

**ANS Holiday Party**  
**Saturday, November 18**

Kick off the holiday season with friends and family at Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

Pick up a few gifts at our auction while enjoying music, food, and festivities.

## Community Liaison Meeting

Neighbors who live within a half mile of Woodend please join us in the Woodend Mansion library on **Thursday, September 14 from 7-8 pm** to hear about plans for the sanctuary, ask questions, and provide feedback. We hope to see you there!



## Rachel Carson - A Living History Portrayal



Imagine having a conversation with Rachel Carson, past ANS Board Member and the woman who launched the environmental movement.

**Leslie Goddard**, award winning actress and scholar, gives voice to Carson through this authentically costumed and well-researched portrayal.

As entertaining as it is informational, this program brings history to life in a fun, inspiring, and educational way. Join us at Woodend Sanctuary on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7:30 pm** for this special performance.

Wine, cheese and other refreshments will be served.

Purchase tickets (\$20) at <https://anshome.org/events-calendar>.

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY'S

## Bloomin' Birdathon

### The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Bloomin' Birdathon was a Wonderful Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our annual Bloomin' Birdathon. Our enthusiastic participants combined their love of birds and wildflowers into significant financial support - and we currently have raised \$26,720! Over 240 Bloomin' Birdathon sponsors helped to meet our goal!

Special thanks to this year's top Bloomin' Birdathon fundraisers:

- Stephanie Mason & Pam Oves - \$6,236.50
- Team Cottingham - \$6,208
- Marcia Minichiello - \$5,102
- ANS Board Team - \$3,283
- No Carbon Footprint – John Bjerke: \$1,085
- Dottie Beck - \$1,000

Team Cottingham had the most bird species sightings at 114 and Marcia Minichiello was our top bloomer at 99.

Thank you to the other Bloomin' Birdathon participants: Shelia Cochran, Stephen Jones, Cecily Nabors & Diane Ford, Peter Munroe & Patricia Bagley, Lisa Norwalk & Leonard Bisson, Nicholas Schliapin, Loree Trilling, and Jacky Wershvale.

As you know, the Bloomin' Birdathon is one of our largest fundraising events of the year. Your generous support helps to fund Audubon Naturalist Society local conservation and environmental education programs throughout the year. Thank you so much to all participants and their generous sponsors. Look for details on the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Bloomin' Birdathon in March 2018.

## LEGACY GIFTS TO ANS

Audubon Naturalist Society recently received some significant legacy gifts from long-time members who had chosen to support ANS in their estate plans. Their gifts will make a huge difference to our educational and conservation work and to the restoration of Woodend Sanctuary. We are deeply grateful for these thoughtful legacies through which these former ANS members will be remembered for years to come.



**Robert J. Lavell and Mary Upton Lavell:** Bob Lavell served on the Board of Directors of ANS in the 1970s, as President of the organization in the early 1980s and was ANS's director of the Natural History Field Studies Program for several years. An all-round naturalist, Bob was ANS's Vice President of Education at a time when the organization's environmental education programs were being established. Bob served in the US Marines during World War II, after which he spent 40 years with the Federal Government as an economist bringing his professional skills and boundless enthusiasm to the growth of ANS during the 1970s and '80s.

Mary graduated Stephen F. Austin University in Texas with a degree in Education and taught elementary education in the Montgomery County Public School system for more than 30 years. Mary was a tireless volunteer for ANS, helping with many of our bigger events including the Nature Fair, Holiday Fairs, Water Quality Monitoring program, and most recently in the Audubon Naturalist Shop.

We remain deeply grateful for Bob and Mary's tremendous contributions of time, energy and support to Audubon Naturalist Society over so many years and now, with their generous legacy gift, well into the future, too.



*Bob and Mary Lavell enjoying the great outdoors in their retirement.*

**Margaret "Peggy" Thomson:** Peggy, an elementary school teacher in the Fairfax County Public Schools, was a dedicated member of ANS for many years. Bird-watching was a major passion and she participated in many ANS programs and birding trips across the USA and internationally. Peggy was an active volunteer with ANS for many years, helping with our fairs, newsletters and bringing her wonderful teaching skills to our school programs. We are grateful to Peggy for her legacy gift which will do so much to support our education and conservation work.

**Roberta Parry:** Roberta's love of the natural world was reflected in everything that she did. Her policy degree from Harvard coupled with her deep interest in nature was key to her success in protecting the nation's water quality throughout her career with the EPA and USDA. An avid birdwatcher, Roberta was a regular participant in ANS classes, forays, and ANS social events. Roberta's thoughtfulness will be remembered through her legacy support of all our work to preserve green spaces and keep our water clean.

**Emma Shelton:** Emma's scientific background and boundless interest in birding and nature led her to ANS and decades of activity in multiple ANS programs and classes. Following an award-winning career as a research scientist with the National Cancer Institute, Emma traveled all over the world with ANS and was an active volunteer in several of our special events. Always a passionate ambassador for ANS, Emma is continuing her support of our work through her generous legacy gift.

**Nevin and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Kuhl:** Both Nevin and Elizabeth served as members of the board of directors of ANS in the early 1970s. As Treasurer, Nevin helped establish ANS's financial security following the receipt of Woodend Sanctuary. Elizabeth's passion for nature inspired her to become very involved in ANS education programs and her impact continues today through her wonderful legacy gift to ANS.

We are deeply grateful to all the members of our Legacy Society and their visionary commitment to ANS. For more information about how to join the Legacy Society, please contact Jacky Wershbaile at [jacky.wershbaile@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershbaile@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x31.

## MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS May - July 2017

### In memory of Jane Blair

Neal Fitzpatrick

### In memory of Peter Chines

Deena & Mark Bleich; David Kanney; Carol Van Ryzin

### In memory of Charles Dorian

Neal Fitzpatrick; Gretchen, Mark, Paul & John Schwartz

### In memory of Lola Oberman

Marlene Cianci; Bill & Pam Fanning; Neal Fitzpatrick; John & Janet Howard; Herb Oberman; Pearl Marks; FK Millar

### In memory of Emma Shelton

Edward Devereux; Neal Fitzpatrick; Pearl Marks; Joanna Shelton; Julie Small; Ralph & Betsy Stephens

### In honor of Marney Bruce

Joanne Straceski

### In honor of Anne & David Cottingham

Brad Wyche

### In honor of Max Martinez

Delia Welsh

### In honor of Naomi Miller

Cynthia Arkin

### In honor of Robert Mumford

Barton & Enid Gershen

### In honor of Cecily Nabors

Barbara Nash

### In honor of Evelyn Ralston

Jennifer Kawar

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Education programs are held at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society's 40-acre Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, unless otherwise noted. All education programs except Nature Travel have online registration. You 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.

# ANS ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 19, 6-9 p.m.

## Woodend Sanctuary

Please join us to hear **Juliet Eilperin, senior national affairs correspondent for *The Washington Post***, talk about "Environmental coverage from the Obama to Trump Era: A Report from the Front Lines." Ms. Eilperin will discuss what it's like to cover environmental policy under two very different presidents.

The evening event will include recognition of volunteers and Natural History Field Studies graduates, and election of members to the ANS Board. *Putting on the Ritz* will provide a light supper.

**Please RSVP** to this free event by October 16 by contacting Carol Hayes (carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10). Friends and family are welcome, too.

### BOARD ELECTIONS:

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](http://www.ANShome.org/board) after October 1.



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**Wed, Sep 13, 2017**

**9am - 6pm**

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For more information visit: [www.anshome.org/conferences](http://www.anshome.org/conferences)