

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Summer 2022

AN\$HOME.ORG



New Audiences, New Adventures

AN\$ NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

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

HEADQUARTERS

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

STORE HOURS

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

GROUND HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

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

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Naturalist Quarterly

ANShome.org Summer 2022

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COVER Students from Forest Knolls Elementary School tour Woodend Nature Sanctuary. Photo by Ben Israel.

From the Director

Special Gifts

One of the more interesting aspects of my job is the special gifts that I receive and give at work. Recently, I met a long-time ANS volunteer for lunch. She proudly presented me with a paper bag – full of empty toilet paper rolls. Her special gift will eventually become craft projects in our Nature Preschool and Nature



Summer Camp. I received another paper bag – at a memorial service no less – from a dedicated ANS water quality monitor. The contents this time? This bag contained jars of alcohol with aquatic insect specimens that were destined for identification by the ANS staff. And I give unusual gifts too. When our new Garden Manager had been on the job for less than a week, I presented her with a bag of compost. And our Camp Director once received from me a complete raccoon skeleton – a gift that might be considered hazing at any other workplace!

I expect you have received special gifts from ANS too. Perhaps the gift was expanding your nature knowledge to include the location of bioluminescent fungi or albino bluebells in nearby forests. Or you received the gift of a fully footnoted advocacy letter in support of meadows under powerlines. You might have been the recipient of articulate testimony in favor of electrifying buildings to cut greenhouse gas emissions in your city, county or town. Or your gift might be the new network of people you met at our Naturally Latinos 4 Conference (see page 18), the nature-loving parents who have kids your own child's age, or a new friend who wants to go camping in the same location as you do. Anyone who joins the extended ANS community will find that many gifts await.

Growth and change will bring gifts too. As we work through the four-part process of selecting a new name for the organization, you, our engaged community of members and partners, have given us deeply thoughtful feedback and suggestions. Nearly 1,000 people participated in our surveys, focus groups and roundtables - extraordinary! We have completed the Discovery and Insight Phases of the name change process and are now deep in the Create Phase. Our Naming the Future Task Force members, brand experts from Spitfire Strategies, and the ANS Board of Directors and staff are synthesizing your compelling suggestions into what will be the right

name for the future. I applaud our members for boldly embracing the idea of a new name that will welcome more people to our community of nature lovers and help us realize our vision of a larger, more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.

A key to the success of our new name will be planning wisely for the future. I have been fortunate to lead ANS through two strategic plans thus far, spanning nearly 10 years. I can assure you that ANS strategic plans do not gather dust on the shelf! Through dedication and determination, the ANS staff accomplished our 2018-2022 Strategic Plan goals despite the pandemic (anshome.org/strategic-plan/). And the process for launching our next strategic plan has already begun. Thanks to a generous grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, ANS hired strategic plan consultants, LINK Strategic Partners. With LINK's help, we will seek your input throughout the next few months so that you can share the gift or your insights as we plan new horizons for ANS.

And, on a personal note, the ANS Board of Directors has given me a special gift for which I am most grateful. Back in 2020, the Board granted me a sabbatical in recognition of seven years as Executive Director and successful completion of the Nature for All capital campaign. Needless to say, 2020 was not the year for me to step away from my desk. So, I cancelled the sabbatical and focused on steering ANS through the pandemic. Now that our organization is back on firm footing in the new normal, the Board has reinstated that gift of a sabbatical which I will gladly accept this year. I will be away from the office from June 9 – September 9, and will enjoy a trip to Alaska with my mom and sisters and time contemplating the wonders of the Atlantic ocean from our family cottage in Nova Scotia.

Along with the Board of Directors, staff leaders, Alison Pearce, Deputy Director for Programs, Amy Ritsko-Warren, Deputy Director for Administration, and Lois Taylor, Deputy Director for Finance, will ably guide ANS in my absence. I look forward to coming back this fall recharged, refreshed and ready to embrace the future for ANS, including launching our new name and strategic plan. While I'm away, please remember that I count ANS members and supporters as the best gift of all!

Feature



Students from Forest Knolls Elementary School tour Woodend's accessible pond boardwalk. All photos by Benjamin Israel.

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New Audiences, New Adventures

"Seeing students of all abilities out engaging with nature has me thinking, **'We've done it!'**"

For ANS Deputy Director for Programs Alison Pearce, this spring's launch of pilot field trips for students with disabilities is a major milestone in our continuing efforts to restore Woodend Nature Sanctuary and welcome all people to it. "Nature for All," the comprehensive restoration project, included the installation of a wonderful accessible nature trail and pond boardwalks.

Thanks to those amenities and our talented ANS educators and volunteers, youngsters of all abilities are now able to learn about and connect with nature during guided school programs at Woodend. Students from Forest Knolls Elementary School (MCPS) were among the first to enjoy the experience. The pilot field trips served students with autism and those with physical disabilities. The field trips were supported by the Stone and Holt Weeks Foundation.

"Thank you to our partners in the MCPS Office for Students with Disabilities, as well as our members, donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff for making these experiences possible," Alison says.

"Woodend provides opportunity for joy, laughter, learning, belonging, and confidence in children who are often excluded from participating in so much of life," says Roxane Kaufmann, MA, Faculty Emeritus, Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development. "Thank you for advocating on behalf of children and families who deserve to experience the natural world."

In addition to making sure that students enjoy a good time in nature, the pilot field trips had another important goal: to help ANS improve on the students' experience. Following the tour, ANS staff debriefed with teachers, physical therapists, and occupational therapists who support these students. Their feedback will help us to enhance the positive and inclusive experience for all youngsters and meet the needs of students with more significant physical, vision, sensory, intellectual or behavioral differences.





"This is an important way that ANS continues to reach new audiences across the DC region," says Executive Director Lisa Alexander. "Being able to provide these kinds of outdoor experiences truly brings us closer to achieving our dream of Nature for All!"

"Keep fighting and advocating on behalf of children and families who deserve to experience the natural world," Roxanne Kaufmann adds.

ANS is pushing toward yet another milestone with plans for an accessible Nature Play Space. The planned accessible features will allow children of all abilities to play together and will include a sensory garden, a woodland playhouse village, and an "engineering zone" for sand and play water and building with natural loose parts. We hope to break ground later this year.

It's fabulous to see all kids having fun and learning together. I absolutely love the one with adults pointing and all the kids totally focused on whatever it is in the distance. Now THAT's inclusive design. I really appreciate your team's hard and persistent work! Jan Majewski, Institute for Human Centered Design

We are so grateful to you and ANS for welcoming our kids and staff to the trail. They are all raving about the experience and interaction with your team. The most exciting part is that this is just the beginning! Bill McGrath, Supervisor, Physical Disabilities, MCPS



Belonging



Queen Shabazz at Forest Hill Park, Richmond, VA, by Benjamin Israel

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The history of African-descended people is a history of belonging to nature. That basic truth is the inspiration behind *Belonging: The Black Americans in Nature Photography Project*. The beautiful digital picture book highlights 40 Black Americans with personal essays and portraits captured at nature spaces across the DC region.

Belonging is a joint project of Audubon Naturalist Society's Taking Nature Black Conference and the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program. The 100-page collection is available as a free downloadable e-book, and all the images are available to peruse online.

"When I chose to study urban forestry, I had never seen a Black woman professional forester, so this work, featuring Black Americans who represent a wide variety of environmental professions, and personal experiences in urban and community forests, inspires me," says Beatra Wilson, Assistant Director of the Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program.

With breathtaking photography by ANS staff videographer/photographer Benjamin Israel, Myron Fields, and Cheriss May, and design by Gabriela Paola Franco Peña, the project is the brainchild of former ANS Director of Marketing and Communications Caroline Brewer, who also served as Chair of the Taking Nature Black Conference.



Jaren Hill Lockridge and Dr. Samuel Ramsey by Benjamin Israel



Beatra Wilson at Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro, MD, by Benjamin Israel

"Growing up in northern Indiana, where I had recurring access to the region's parks, campgrounds, and fields, I always felt that I belonged," Caroline says. "I hope Belonging inspires new conversations, healing conversations, about people of color and nature for many years to come."

"I encourage everyone to make time to savor Belonging," says Audubon Naturalist Society Executive Director Lisa Alexander. "This fabulous photo exhibit is filled with heart, soul, and compelling stories of Black Americans and their deep and fundamental connections to nature. You will be uplifted!"

"Nature doesn't care if we are Black or White, rich or poor, straight or gay. She invites us to sip from her raindrops, bathe in her sunlight, and get lost in her moonbeams," Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali of the National Wildlife Federation added. "In nature, all things are possible."

You can download Belonging at anshome.org/belonging.



Caroline Brewer and Nasya Carter at Woodend Nature Sanctuary by Cheriss May



Ronnie Webb at Oxon Run Park by Benjamin Israel



Lydia Lawrence at Seneca Regional Park, Great Falls, VA, by Myron Fields



Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali at Anacostia Park, Washington, DC, by Myron Fields

Conservation



Testifying on behalf of nature: Nearly every week, both virtually and in-person, your ANS Conservation Advocates write and deliver testimony to government bodies throughout the Washington, DC region. Clockwise from top left: Advocates meet with Washington, DC Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton to support clean water funding; challenge the District of Columbia Council to meet their climate commitments; encourage the Montgomery County Council to invest in better stormwater management; and take the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to task for inappropriate cuts to parks budgets. Your Advocates are always speaking up for healthy communities for people and wildlife.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY NEWS

Washington, DC

Environment Budget: ANS submitted [written testimony](#) for the Department of Energy and Environment Fiscal Year 2023 Budget hearing.

Electrify Everything: As we push the District to keep its climate commitments, ANS submitted a comment letter on the Public Service Commission's use of a study that provides evidence that electrification investments will help move the city toward its climate goals. Read our letter and find out how you can get involved by visiting our blog.

ANS also signed on in support of **Migratory Local Wildlife Protection Act of 2022**. This legislation focuses on making buildings bird safe to prevent tragic bird/glass collisions in the District.

Maryland

TAKE ACTION – Protect Montgomery County Forests: ANS testified in support of protecting more priority forest ecosystems and requiring higher replanting ratios. We asked the county Planning staff to strengthen its forest conservation proposal in

these two areas. [Read more on our blog](#). Thanks to your actions and support we sent 306 letters to the Planning Board ahead of the April 28 public hearing. **Send a letter to Montgomery County Council and demand they introduce a new Forest Conservation Law bill that includes the MOCO Forest Coalition's top recommendations ASAP!** [Read more and take action right from our blog](#).

Virginia

Fairfax County Parks: Advocacy works! We are happy to report that the proposed changes to the FY23 budget include the full ~\$752K recommended by the Park Authority to fund three staff positions and cover start-up costs for a Natural Resources Sustainability initiative. The Board has also committed to work closely with FCPA ensure adequate funding for future capital improvement and equity projects. Ongoing advocacy will be needed, but we are pleased with our progress for this year's budget! [Get the latest updates on our blog](#).

Visit <https://conservationblog.anshome.org/tag/Summer2022NQ/> to read all the articles mentioned here.



Workshop: Environmental & Conservation Advocacy 101

Wednesday, July 13 (1-3:30 pm)
ANS members \$20; nonmembers \$30
Instructor: Eliza Cava (via Zoom)
Register at anshome.org/training

What's your environmental issue? Our workshop will cover the following key introductory skills:

- communicating your WHY
- connecting environmental solutions with human needs
- building campaigning skills

Everyone can strengthen their advocacy skills at this workshop!

Volunteer with ANS Conservation on Advocacy & Policy!

Our new Conservation Advocacy volunteer corps meets bimonthly for training, idea sharing, and new assignments. Next meeting is Tuesday, June 7 at 3 pm. Email jamoni.overby@anshome.org to get involved.

June Conservation Cafe

Bird Conservation is Actually All About Humans
Wednesday, June 1, 7-8:30 pm
Virtual. \$10-\$15.

Tykee James
DC Audubon &
Amplify the Future

So much of what drives our ability to conserve birds and other wildlife is really about managing human behaviors, which requires us to look inside – what motivates us? What do we really want on our landscapes? How much do we need, and who gets to decide? Join Co-Founder of Amplify the Future and current President of DC Audubon **Tykee James** for this talk during **Black Birders Week**.

See detailed description and register at anshome.org/conservation-cafe.

Get involved and learn more!

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

Connecting Youth to Nature

The ANS Nature Preschool brings the gift of wonder to children!

The ANS Nature Preschool believes children learn best when they follow their hearts and interests and engage in the natural world with all of their senses. ANS Nature Preschool's focus on the whole-child through its dynamic and emergent curriculum establishes a foundation for a lifetime love of learning and nature. Our 40-acre nature sanctuary, small class sizes, and talented and engaged teaching staff make us unique and set us apart from all other schools. Our all-outdoor classes and vaccination requirements make us a reassuringly safe school option. All programs run September through May.

Drop-off Programs:

Saplings for 3 - 5 year old children
M - TH: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm, F: 8:30 - 11:30 am

Oaks Forest Kindergarten for 4.5 - 6 year old children
M - TH: 9 am*- 2 pm, F: 9 am*- 12 pm

*Early arrival available at 8:30 am

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Adult-Child Programs:

Acorns for children 4 years old and younger with their favorite adult
W or TH: 9 - 10:15 am or 10:45 am - 12 pm

Contact stephanie.bozzo@anshome.org & 301.652.9188 x32 for more information or visit www.anshome.org/ans-preschool.

Family Walks at Woodend

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

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

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

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NATURE BIRTHDAY PARTIES AT ANS
Create lasting memories for your child
and also support nature conservation and education

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

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

Audubon Naturalist Society

Connecting Youth to Nature



Salad Science Returns

Growing one's own food is a truly powerful way to connect with nature. Young learners at 23 schools from Riverdale to Germantown were able to enjoy our GreenKids Salad Science program this spring for the first time since 2019! Planting tiny lettuce seeds, nurturing and watching them grow, and harvesting the greens to enjoy with a rainbow of salad toppings was a truly magical experience for more than 2,000 students. Many thanks to all our wonderful donors who help support this program!



Second graders at New Hampshire Estates ES carefully sow their lettuce seeds. Photo by Diane Lill.

GreenKids Celebrates Earth Day at Riverdale ES

Our first GreenKids school in Prince George's County enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Earth Day that we organized in coordination with Anacostia Watershed Society and the Clean Water Partnership, which donated 50 plants for revitalizing the school's rain garden. The school community voted on the plants they wanted to see in their rain garden, and on a gorgeous Saturday morning, more than 100 students and family members worked together to restore the garden. Through hands-on discovery and crafts, they also learned about the benefits that these gardens provide to our watershed.

Summer Camp 2022

The health and safety of our campers is our top priority. All campers are required to be fully vaccinated by the start of their camp session. Protocols are subject to change throughout the summer. Learning and fun in nature will continue as usual!

The following camps still have space:

K/Session 1/Nature Explorers & Audubon Animals

K/Session 2/Backyard Birds & Bugs Galore

K/Session 3/Nature Explorers & Audubon Animals

5th&6th/Week 8/Bay Quest

7th&8th&9th/Week 6/Beginning Backpacking

7th&8th&9th/Week 7/Hiking Club

7th&8th&9th/Advanced Bay Quest

10th&11th&12th/Week 2/Advanced Wilderness Skills

10th&11th&12th/Week 7/Advanced Mountain Outpost

Register at www.anshome.org/summer-camps
Questions? Email pam.oves@anshome.org.



Children and Nature



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A wonderful school project that's been years in the making took a huge step forward this spring.

About two years ago, ANS helped **German International School Washington DC** in Potomac, MD plant the seeds for a potential pollinator garden -- literally. We provided lessons to first graders about the importance of bees and other pollinators for plant survival. Students then planted dill, parsley, zinnia, and other seeds in pots. For the next phase, second and third-grade students helped prepare the soil in the garden.

In early May, the big day finally arrived: installing the plants in the new pollinator garden!





ANS Deputy Director for Programs Alison Pearce, Adult Education Director Serenella Linares, and Volunteer Coordinator Peihan Orestes, along with dedicated volunteers Frank Sanford, Gail Melson, and Robin Stocks helped guide the installation by fourth and fifth-grade students at the school.

Thank you to everyone who participated during this two-and-a-half-year journey. It's a great community effort and we can't wait to see the plants and pollinators that thrive in this space.



ANS Garden Consultations

On-site Garden Coaching
Garden Design

Learn more at anshome.org/native-plant-gardening

Adult Nature Programs

Wild places are closer than you think.®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Botany Hike in the Bottomlands

Wednesday, June 15 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Bradley Simpson

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Our Restoration Manager/tree ID instructor will lead this almost-summer plant hike to visit the bottomland habitats of Turkey Run Park, situated along the Potomac River and accessed off the GW Parkway near McLean, VA. All things green will be the hike's focus: trees and shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns. *Be prepared for a long and steep hike down (and back up again!) mostly on constructed stairs to reach the bottomland forest—where there may be muddy conditions underfoot. There will also be one or two stream crossings to consider. Participants should be in good physical shape for uphill/downhill hiking on a steep gradient.* [REGISTER](#)

Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)

A: June 22 – Widewater

B: July 6 – Riley's Lock

C: July 20 – Swain's Lock

D: July 27 – Carderock

Leaders: Stephanie Mason (A, B, & C) and Carol Hayes (D)
Each walk members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Summer has arrived and it's likely to be hot and humid. So we'll keep our pace to a shuffle along Maryland's C&O Canal as we explore four relatively close-in stretches of the Towpath along the Potomac River. We'll stop often to observe birds, blooms, butterflies, dragonflies, snakes, and whatever else we might find underfoot or overhead in this habitat and species rich parkland. [REGISTER](#)

Ferns for Beginners

Friday, June 17 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46



What makes a plant a fern? What are the most common ferns in our area? To help answer these questions, we'll walk the trails at

Rachel Carson Conservation Park near Olney, MD. While our naturalist will share the answers to the "what" questions, he'll also help you learn some basic characteristics you'll be able to use to ID ferns on your own. *Be prepared for some uphill/downhill on this hike of up to several miles. Trails will be natural surface and may be uneven, rocky and/or muddy.* [REGISTER](#)

Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies

Thursday, June 23 (7-9 pm) (Virtual lecture)

Saturday, June 25 (morning field trip)

Leader: Lisa Shannon

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Virtual lecture only \$20/\$28

Grab your binoculars and prepare to set your sights not on birds—although "mosquito hawk" is a common nickname—but on those six-legged, aerial acrobats of wetland habitats: the dragonflies and damselflies. During the evening lecture on the Zoom platform, our leader will discuss ID, biology, and behavior of the more common species of *Odonates* in our area. You'll then join our leader for a morning field trip to the wetland habitats of Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract) near Bowie, MD, where participants will have a chance to test their own ID skills. [REGISTER](#)

Solstice Walk at Little Bennett

Friday, June 24 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Explore this botanical gem among Montgomery County Parks as the season passes from spring into summer. At 3,700 acres, the Park near Clarksburg, MD harbors rich plant diversity due to it many habitats. On this leisurely hike of up to a couple of miles, our summer wildflower teacher will introduce you to many of this protected area's blooming plants of early summer. *Expect some open and sunny conditions, as well as some uphill/downhill, on natural surface trails which may be muddy and/or slippery.* [REGISTER](#)

Summer Walks on the Wild Side

(8:30-11:30 am)

A. Sunday, June 26 – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC

B. Thursday, July 7 – Huntley Meadows Park, VA

C. Sunday, July 17 – Governor's Bridge Natural Area, MD

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Join our Senior Naturalist to explore the seasonal richness of three parks in the DC-Metro area. As summer arrives and brings with it long, hot, muggy days and nights, wetlands and meadows soak up the sunlight and come alive with plant and wildlife activity. We'll explore these parks' open and mostly sunny habitats with walks of up to 2.5 miles at a slow summer pace. We'll search for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, amphibians, and summer plant life on natural surface paths and boardwalk. [REGISTER](#)

Botany in a Parking Lot

Wednesday, June 29 (10 am-Noon)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

No joke! Our leader invites you to join her for an easy walk around the perimeter of one of her favorite botanical hot-spots along the C&O Canal Towpath at the Carderock Recreation Area. Expect an easy walk around the parking lot's edge as she shows you how to ID the diverse group of trees around the lot, using bark, buds, leaves, and developing fruits. [REGISTER](#)

Firefly Fling

Thursday, June 30 (8-9:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$15; nonmembers \$20

Come and enjoy nature's fireworks—the courting of fireflies over our Woodend Sanctuary's meadows and forests. The evening begins with a short discussion of the life history and behavior of these luminescent beetles. As dusk descends, we'll observe the various flash and flight patterns of different species and try to “communicate” with these insects ourselves. We'll also turn our eyes to the sky and hope to catch a glimpse of feeding bats as they circle and swoop in search of flying insects. [REGISTER](#)

B is for Butterfly

Saturday, July 2 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

On this slow stroll through at Black Hill Regional Park near Boyds, MD, you'll enjoy an introduction to some of the common butterflies of summer: their habits and habitats, how to identify them, and where to look for their caterpillars and host plants. Be prepared for explorations in open, sunny areas. [REGISTER](#)

Holiday on Wheels Along the Patuxent

Monday, July 4 (8:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

Dust off your bike and join an exploration of 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 summer activity in the natural world. We'll dismount often to look for wildflowers, birds, butterflies, and frogs. Our round-trip ride will be between 5-8 miles on both paved and gravelly/sandy ground conditions. Bring your own bike. [REGISTER](#)

Summer Birding Strolls

(7-9:30 am)

A. Friday, July 8 – Black Hill Regional Park, MD
(Leader: Mark England)

B. Saturday, July 16 – Hughes Hollow, MD
(Leader: Len Bisson)

C. Saturday, August 6 – Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA (Leader: Paul Pisano)

D. Sunday, August 21 – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC
(Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton)

E. Saturday, August 27 – Blue Mash Nature Trail, MD
(Leader: Len Bisson)

Each walk members \$33; nonmembers \$46



Summertime...and the living is easy-- unless you're a bird busy with nesting chores and the many challenges of raising young. Summertime can also be a more difficult period to encounter birds

as they quiet down and move around with greater stealth. Still, there is lots to observe, discuss, and enjoy on a summer birding walk so we're happy to offer this series for beginning to mid-level birders. As it starts, breeding bird activity will still be ongoing, but by late July and into August, the movement of southbound migrants will be underway. *Expect some open and sunny field conditions at all of our locations. There will be chances, however, to duck into the shade periodically as we keep our pace to a slow stroll.* [REGISTER](#)

Nature Photography Basics

Sunday, July 10 (8-11 am)

Leader: Liz Guertin

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Join Maryland Master Naturalist & Nature Photographer Liz Guertin for a journey into nature photography basics. Liz will cover everything from where to find good photoshoots to how to use any camera (phone, point & shoot, DSLR, or a mirrorless) to compose and achieve the best shots possible. All cameras welcome! Our venue for the morning is Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, MD where we're guaranteed to see blooming flowers, critters such as turtles, insects, patterns, colors, and birds. [REGISTER](#)

On the Wing at Pennyfield

Thursday, July 14 (8-10:30 am)

Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

The varied habitats of the Pennyfield Lock area—C&O Canal and Potomac waters, bottomland forest and swamps, watery impoundments, and even rocky cliffs—attract an abundance of bird species in all seasons. According to our leaders, these habitats can also be a productive spot for summer dragonfly and damselfly watching. Join them for this morning's search for both birds and winged dragons and damsels as they share ID tips. Don't forget your binoculars! [REGISTER](#)

Six-legged Songsters of Summer

Tuesday, July 19 (7-9:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Sticky summer has arrived, and the songs of insects such as cicadas, crickets, and katydids begin to swell into a noisy and riotous chorus. Join naturalist Cathy Stragar at our Woodend Sanctuary for a slide introduction to the most common of these songsters: who they are, why they sing, and how they make their amazing sounds. As darkness falls, we'll spend time looking and listening for these songsters on our grounds. *The slide show will be presented in an outdoor tented space with side flaps open for ventilation.* [REGISTER](#)

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Thursday, July 21 (9-10 pm)

Leader: Carrie Fitzgerald

Members \$15; nonmembers \$20

Join us for a guided look at the summer night sky with an astronomer from Montgomery College. Perched on the lawn at our Woodend Sanctuary, participants will view visible solar system objects, star clusters, and nebulae through a telescope provided by the leader. You'll leave with an enriched understanding of the science of astronomy, as well as the ability to locate and identify constellations and celestial objects on your own. [REGISTER](#)

Dragons of the Air

Sunday, July 24 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Lisa Shannon

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

The urban wetlands at Lake Artemesia in Greenbelt, MD are an ideal spot to begin learning how to ID the most common dragonflies in our area. Naturalist Lisa Shannon will help dragonfly enthusiasts (beginners welcome!) focus on identification characteristics, as well as the life histories, of these aerial insects. Close-focusing binoculars are recommended for optimal dragon-watching in the open and sunny habitats we'll explore at this *inside-the-Beltway* park. [REGISTER](#)

Introduction to Botanical Illustration

Saturday, July 30 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Jen Brown

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

Summer can be an ideal time to slow down your pace and work at becoming a better observer of nature. One way to do this is through botanical illustration, says ANS member and artist Jen Brown. We're delighted she's agreed to be our teacher for this beginner's session in learning how to observe and record the identifying features of a plant using graphite pencils. The location for this workshop will be our Woodend Sanctuary, where native plant gardens offer many subjects for you to create rough sketches. Jen will then help guide everyone through the steps of finishing their drawing using tone (light and shade) to portray the form of the plant. *A list of materials needed for this workshop will be sent two weeks in advance.* [REGISTER](#)

ANS COVID Policy for Outdoor Adult Programs

Continuing this spring, both leaders and participants are asked to observe social distancing throughout our outdoor field trips. We request that any participant or leader who has not been vaccinated for Covid-19 wear a mask at all times. Of course, all participants are welcome to wear a mask if they are more comfortable doing so. Twelve will be our usual group size maximum, unless an outing's focus/and or field conditions call for a smaller group. All of the policies above are subject to change.



The Buzz on Bees and Wasps

Sunday, July 31 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Cliff Fairweather

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

From solitary parasitic wasps to the highly social honeybee, from potter wasps to carpenter bees, these related insects form a fascinating and critically important part of the natural world. We'll take a look at their diversity, life histories, significant ecological roles, and the worrisome threats currently facing bees and wasps. Our outdoor classroom will be the woodlands and wetlands at McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area near Poolesville, MD. Expect exploration in open and sunny areas, possibly with tall vegetation. *A great preparation for this field trip will be our leader's Naturalist Hour presentation: The Summer Buzz: All about Bees and Wasps. It will be presented on the Zoom platform Thursday, July 28 at 7 pm. Register for it separately at <https://anshome.org/naturalist-hour/>*

How Does Her Garden Grow?

Wednesday, August 3 (10 am-Noon)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Here's your chance to visit the home garden of an ANS member who has worked to reduce lawn coverage, increase food and shelter for wildlife, and incorporate native plants whenever possible. Marney will share her successes and failures on a stroll through her yard, which includes sun-loving plants in the front, shade-loving species in the back, and a water feature. Our destination garden is located near Bethesda, MD. [REGISTER](#)



Naturally Latinos Conference 4



EPA Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz delivers his keynote presentation during the in-person conference day at the Silver Spring Civic Center.

Our fourth Naturally Latinos Conference, held March 22-26, was an amazing experience delivered in English and Spanish, and online and in-person. Themed "Otro mundo es posible: Another world is possible", the event provided participants with exciting opportunities to learn, share, and network with a diverse gathering of nature professionals and advocates for environmental issues of particular concern to Latino communities.

Nearly 400 attendees engaged on a wide variety of timely topics delivered by top regional experts and activists. This year's conference began with three days of virtual panel discussions and special keynote presentations delivered by Iliá Calderón, co-anchor of Univision Network's "Noticiero Univision," who talked about the role of media in promoting environmental conservation and awareness among Latino audiences, and Dr. Ana Luz Porzecanski, Director of the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation, American Museum of Natural History, who discussed Understanding, Conserving, and Sustaining Biodiversity.

Thanks to the collaboration of talented interpreters, participants could listen to sessions translated into both Spanish and English.

Day four of the conference was a day of in-person programming (with proof of vaccine and mask-wearing) held at the Silver Spring Civic Center. EPA Region 3 Administrator Adam Ortiz delivered the day's keynote presentation on his experiences, personally and professionally, in politics and regulatory offices as a Hispanic champion of the environment. The conference concluded on a Saturday with nature field trips including forest bathing at Woodend Nature Sanctuary, and a boat tour on the Anacostia River.

"We are so honored and grateful for the presence of our speakers, our sponsors, our colleagues, and volunteers," said Conference Co-Chair Serenella Linares. "It is the people who come together who make Naturally Latinos Conference what it is."



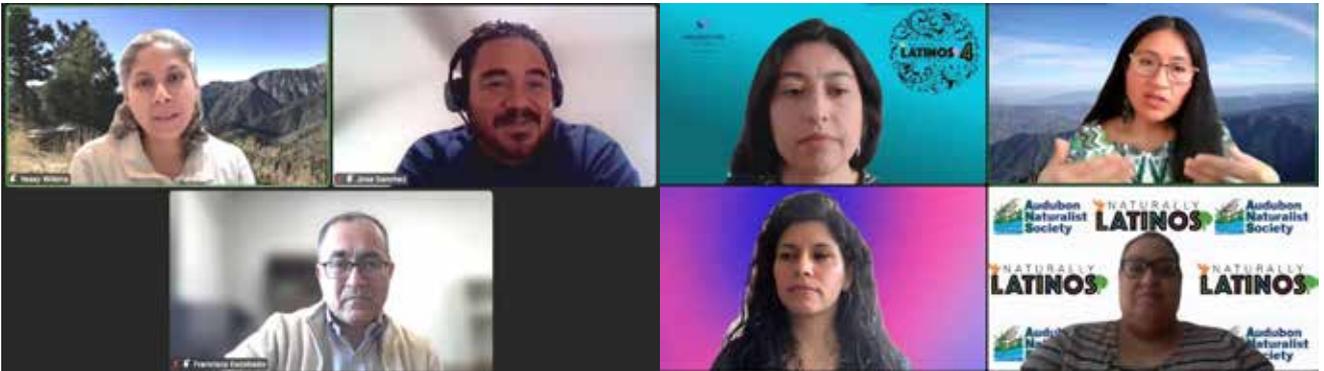
Ana Luz Porzecanski, Director of the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History, describes her work on biodiversity around the world.



(Clockwise from top left) ANS Conservation Director Eliza Cava, Ana Palmer, Karla Castillo, and Helena Olea deliver the Migration and Climate Change panel discussion.



The Silver Spring Civic Center served as a wonderful location for the March 25th in-person session of the Naturally Latinos Conference. Keynote speaker Adam Ortiz called the gathering "a beautiful reunion." Photo by Liz Guertin



Virtual presentations included Careers in the U.S. Forest Service, Land Acknowledgement & Indigeneity and the Latinx Community; Latinos in the Watershed Restoration Movement; Mentoring; and a Local Latinx Government and Elected Officials Panel, among others.

Thank You to our generous Naturally Latinos Conference sponsors!



Naturalist Hour

Interactive online enrichment featuring regional nature experts.

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



A Year of Wild Foods

Thursday, June 16 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Matt Cohen, owner - Matt's Habitats

Explore another great way to connect with nature by learning about wild foods and how to include them in your diet. Matt Cohen will introduce you to the many wild edible plants and mushrooms found in the DMV through the seasons. You'll learn about more than plants and mushrooms during this fascinating presentation. [REGISTER](#)



A Birder on Safari

Thursday, June 23 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mark Garland, Naturalist

African safaris are among the world's best known and most loved nature travel experiences. While large mammals are a well-known attraction, the safari regions of Africa are also loaded with amazing birds. Don't miss this opportunity to travel virtually with Naturalist Mark Garland to the African countries of Uganda, Botswana, and Tanzania. You will absolutely marvel at the variety of birds and mammals found there! [REGISTER](#)

Crawling and Pulsating Decomposers: The Mystery of Slime Molds

Wednesday, June 22 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Serenella Linares, ANS Adult Education Director

Join ANS Adult Education Director, Serenella Linares, to examine the life cycle and ecology of slime molds. What are these creatures that appear and disappear in a matter of hours? Where can you find them and how can you get a better look at them? Learn why the intelligence of one slime mold has been compared to the work of the engineers who created Tokyo's transportation system. Register for this FREE FACEBOOK event at <https://fb.me/e/34PKbOvZ1>

FREE
FACEBOOK
LIVE EVENT





The Biology of Sticky: The Study of Spider Silk

Wednesday, July 13 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mercedes Burns, U of MD Assistant Professor of Biology

Have you ever wondered what makes spider silk so sticky and so durable? Join us to learn from an expert! University of Maryland Biology Professor Mercedes Burns will introduce you to her ongoing research on sticky biomaterials by focusing on spider silk. She will share her findings on the protein structure of silk, how spiders produce it, and what components make the silk sticky. You'll also learn why humans find it so hard to replicate this miracle of nature in a lab! [REGISTER](#)

Summer's Bounty: Birds, Blooms, Beasts, & Babies (when and where to spot them in the Mid-Atlantic)

Thursday, July 14 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Barbara Saffir, Author, Master Naturalist and Wildlife photographer



Discover when and where to find some of the Mid-Atlantic's summer nature bounty, including electric-blue

birds atop crayon-yellow sunflowers; itsy-bitsy green treefrogs with racing stripes and sticky toes; bedazzling bugs; backyard squirrels that "fly;" and a sea of native lotus blossoms, worthy of Monet.

[REGISTER](#)



Naturally Latinos Conference presents: Cafecito con Abuela - redescubriendo nuestras raíces de conservación (Coffee with Grandma: Rediscovering Our Conservation Roots)

Wednesday, July 20 (7-8 pm)

Presenters: Panel

Nuestra cultura latina está llena de costumbres conservacionistas que muchas veces seguimos sin reconocer que son beneficiosas para el medio ambiente. Escucha de la boca de nuestras abuelas de dónde salen esas costumbres, y redescubre el amor por nuestra cultura a la vez que ayudamos al planeta. (*Our latine culture is filled with behaviors that we often follow without ever realizing that they are ecofriendly practices. Listen to the voices of our grandmothers to discover where these behaviors originate. Join us to rediscover love for our culture and more ecofriendly ways to live*). Register for this FREE FACEBOOK event at: <https://fb.me/e/5cgTHwhG3>

FREE
FACEBOOK
LIVE EVENT

The Summer Buzz: All About Bees and Wasps

Thursday, July 28 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Cliff Fairweather, Retired Natural Resources Specialist, Arlington County Department of Parks and Rec

There's much more to bees and wasps than a buzz and a sting! We'll explore the natural history of this ecologically and economically important group of insects during a lecture and a field trip, including identification of common families. You'll also gain an understanding of some of the insects that take advantage of the fearsome reputation of bees and wasps by mimicking their appearance and behavior. [REGISTER](#)



twitter.com/ANStweets

Natural History Field Studies

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

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

Biology for Naturalists

NATH7110E, 3 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Tuesdays, 6-8 pm

Zoom class schedule: June 14–August 16. No class July 5.

Field trips: Saturday, June 25 (10 am–1 pm) at Woodend Nature Sanctuary; Sunday, July 10 (10 am–1 pm) location TBA; Wednesday, July 20 (6–8 pm) at Woodend Nature Sanctuary; Saturday, July 30 (10 am–1 pm) location TBA

Members \$380, nonmembers \$430

Instructor: Serenella Linares

REGISTER ONLINE or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

Explore the basic biological principles and processes that govern the natural world. Our evolutionary and ecological lens focuses on mechanisms, patterns, relationships, adaptations, and environmental influences. Topics include the cell and the genetic basis of life; evolution; biological diversity and the tree of life; and a comparative survey of the plant and animal kingdoms. Labs, outdoor activities, and field trips provide hands-on opportunities to apply course content. Registration closes June 8.



Introduction to Astronomy

NATH8125, 1.5 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Zoom class schedule: June 15–July 13

Field trip: Friday, June 24 (6–8 pm) Rain date Friday, July 8

Members \$200, nonmembers \$250

Instructor: Dr. Carrie Fitzgerald

REGISTER ONLINE or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

This course provides a continuation of the material covered in *The Night Sky for Naturalists*, but the previous course is not a prerequisite for successful completion of this course. Topics to be covered include the origin of stars, the interstellar medium, the lifecycles of various classes of stars, and the formation and detection of exoplanets. The course will also discuss the structure and composition of the Milky Way Galaxy, as well as the origin, evolution, and fate of the universe. One evening field trip to the Montgomery College Astronomical Observatory. Registration closes June 8.



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

Summer Tree Identification

NATH7148, 3 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Zoom class schedule: June 16-August 18

Field trips: Saturdays (10 am–1 pm)

June 25: Patuxent River Park-Jug Bay Natural Area; July

16: Little Bennett Regional Park; July 23: Woodend Na-

nure Sanctuary; August 6, Sugarloaf Mountain

Members \$380, nonmembers \$430

Instructor: Bradley Simpson

REGISTER ONLINE or at www.anshome.org/nhfs

Learn about trees, shrubs, and vines in this 10-week intensive course! Taxonomy, plant morphology, and forest ecology will all be explored. The course will focus on identification of our region's woody plants with the use of local dichotomous keys. Field trips will emphasize plant associations and reinforce the use of keys by highlighting identifying characteristics of various woody plants. Registration closes June 8.



Summer Wildflower ID

NATH7149E, 1.5 CEUs

Zoom classes meet: Mondays, 6-8 pm

Zoom class schedule: July 18-August 15

Field trips: Wednesday, July 20 (6-8 pm) at Woodend

Nature Sanctuary; Sunday, July 31 (9 am-12 pm) location

TBA; and Sunday, August 21 (9 am-12 pm) location TBA

Members \$260, nonmembers \$310

Instructor: Dr. Clare Walker

REGISTER ONLINE or at www.anshome.org/nhfs



Gain an appreciation of the varied summer wildflowers of our region from dazzling orchids to roadside 'weeds'

and from distinctive milkweeds to the complicated asters. Explore methods of field identification, from traditional field guides to the advantages/disadvantages of different apps, giving you the tools to go outside and hunt for flowers (recording flower observations in an optional iNaturalist class project). The class will also consider the ecological roles between the plants and their pollinators and how they support wildlife in different habitats of the Mid-Atlantic. Field trips, featuring some of the area's best wildflower locations, will allow practice in recognizing identification characteristics and using guides/apps. A magnifier/hand lens is recommended. Class aimed at beginner to intermediate levels. Registration closes July 13.

Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

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

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

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

Adults in Nature Photos



Reptiles and Amphibians

Adult learners experienced an outing full of wildlife sightings during a recent field trip for our Natural History Field Studies (NHFS) "Reptiles and Amphibians" course. Expert instructor Rachel Gauza Gronert led the eventful outing at Huntley Meadows in May. The course introduced students to reptiles and amphibians in the Mid-Atlantic region. During online class sessions, students learned about reptile and amphibian biology, ecology, behavior, and more. During the field trip, they were able to work on observation and identification skills.

See pages 22 and 23 for details about our Summer NHFS courses and sign up today!



Photos by Benjamin Israel



Conservation Outreach Programs

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

¡Sí Se Puede! – Our longest-running outreach project is in the Long Branch neighborhood of Silver Spring. Now in our third year of engaging with residents along with partners CHEER and Friends of Sligo Creek, we are supporting community members in understanding and reducing sources of trash and litter in their community (below). Photo: Pia Iolster. *We need volunteers for our end of project event on Saturday July 16, contact denisse.quitarra@anshome.org if you are interested.*



Our newest outreach project is in Prince George's County, reaching largely Latine residents of Langley Park, Edmonston, and the historic Port Towns near the confluence of the Northwest and Northeast Branches of the Anacostia. Above, Langley Park Civic Association leader and Naturally Latinos partner Norberto Martinez learns to identify his first macroinvertebrates. Photo: Ben Israel.



A mother lifts her child to hang a pinecone/ peanut butter bird feeder on a newly planted tree at Creekside apartment community, in Fairfax County (right). This Celebration of Trees was an event in our **Waterkeepers of Little Hunting Creek** outreach project. Photo: Renee Grebe.



Stream Science



ANS WATER QUALITY MONITORING

ANS opened two new stream monitoring sites in Prince George's County in April!

One site is on Sligo Creek about ¼ mile downstream from New Hampshire Avenue. The other site is on Northwest Branch near the Adelphi Mill Recreation Center. Many thanks to our new volunteers who joined the ranks of ANS water quality monitors as well as long-time volunteers Paula Wang and Glenn Welch who are serving as mentors for the new teams.

Our primary task is to catch, identify and count aquatic macroinvertebrates. The types and numbers we find tell us about stream health. Conditions were poor to fair at these sites; we'll be watching and hoping for conditions to improve over time.

Special thanks to Prince George's County Parks and our colleagues at [Friends of Sligo Creek](#) and [Neighbors of Northwest Branch](#) for their assistance. This work, which entails both community science and community engagement, is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Pepco.

- **About the Program:** ANS volunteer teams monitor 25 stream sites in Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard County, and three sites in Rock Creek Park, DC. We are looking for volunteers! Interested? Please email cleanstreams@anshome.org.
- **Learn About Stream Science:** We offer online, self-paced classes in assessing stream health and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates. Learn from the best about these amazing insects!
- **For more information and to register for our classes:** please visit <https://anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring/>.



Volunteers isolate individual macroinvertebrates for identification. Photo by Ben Israel.



Glittering Jewels: Hummingbirds

Text and photos by ANS member Jane Gamble

Often described as the jewels of the avian world, hummingbirds are brilliantly colored balls of energy that dart through summer sunshine leaving trails of pollen and magic in their wake. The collective nouns for hummingbirds include 'glittering', 'shimmer', and 'bouquet' - all aptly descriptive of the wonder of these tiny creatures that migrate for thousands of miles and fill our summers with joy.

While there are more than 330 species of hummingbirds in the Western Hemisphere, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the most common visitor east of the Great Plains. Here in the Capital Region, we can expect to see Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) return to our gardens and feeders in April or May after their migration from as far away as Mexico, Costa Rica, and Panama. While the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the sole species to breed in eastern North America, occasionally other species of hummingbirds from outside their normal range visit the area. Whether they simply got 'lost' during migration, or were blown off-course by storms, these 'vagrants' are a source of much delight to local birders who relish the opportunity to see a species that is out of the ordinary.



White-necked Jacobin



Ruby-throated Hummingbirds



Anna's Hummingbird

The return of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird to its summer home is celebrated in many ways. Photographers vie to post the first photo of a male hummingbird with its brilliant ruby red throat (gorget), while others track location reports on eBird or fill special hummingbird feeders in eager anticipation of their arrival.

Whether photographer, bird-enthusiast, or just a lover of the species, one of the best ways to enjoy the thrill of a hummingbird's visit is to fill our gardens with the nectar-rich flowers that they crave. Native Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*), Beebalm (*Monarda didyma*), Cardinal Flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*), and Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadense*) are irresistible to hummingbirds and many other pollinators, as well. Yes, red and orange tubular flowers are sure-fire winners when it comes to attracting hummers!

For those without a garden, it is easy to host hummingbirds by maintaining feeders. It is amazing to watch a hummingbird suspend itself in space on tiny wings that beat up to 53 times a second, remaining perfectly still and simultaneously drinking deeply through its slender bill.

Can't get enough of the beauty of hummingbirds? Don't miss an exhibition by a group of local photographers titled "A Bouquet of Hummingbirds" this summer at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. It will feature works from more than 20 area artists and include hummingbirds from all over the Western Hemisphere. All profits from the sale of photos will be donated to the Friends of Green Spring, a non-profit organization devoted to maintaining the gardens and furthering public education and outreach. The show runs from June 28 through October 17, 2022 at the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens and is free to the public.



Fiery-throated Hummingbird (Costa Rica)



Rufous Hummingbird

Nature Travel

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

South Texas: Subtropical Habitats and Specialty Birds

November 9-17, 2022
Leaders: Paul Pisano and Len Bisson



Subtropical wildlife from Mexico barely crosses into the US in the Rio Grande Valley of extreme south Texas. Enjoy the great variety of birds, butterflies, and other wildlife with a week-long exploration of this dynamic ecosystem. Plain Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Ringed Kingfisher, Altamira Oriole and Green Jay are just a few of the species rarely, if ever, found elsewhere in the US. We will plan day trips to habitats ranging from the Chihuahuan desert scrub of Falcon State



Park to the expansive coastal flats of Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge and nearby South Padre Island. Other great birding sites we will be sure to visit include Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, and Estero Llano Grande State Park, among others. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org to receive registration information and itinerary as soon as its available. *Photos of Altamira Oriole (top left) and Crested Caracara (right) by Mark S. Garland.*



Photo of Great Grey Owl by Alex Sundvall

Nature Travel Update

As our Nature Travel program eases back into scheduling trips after a 2.5 year pause, we plan to resume our popular trips to **Costa Rica** in February 2023, and a winter birding excursion to **Minnesota**, also in February. Stay tuned for other 2023 trip announcements.

Volunteer Corner



Volunteers Michael Lautenberger and Elizabeth Wagner assist ANS Garden Manager Alice Sturm at Woodend Nature Sanctuary.



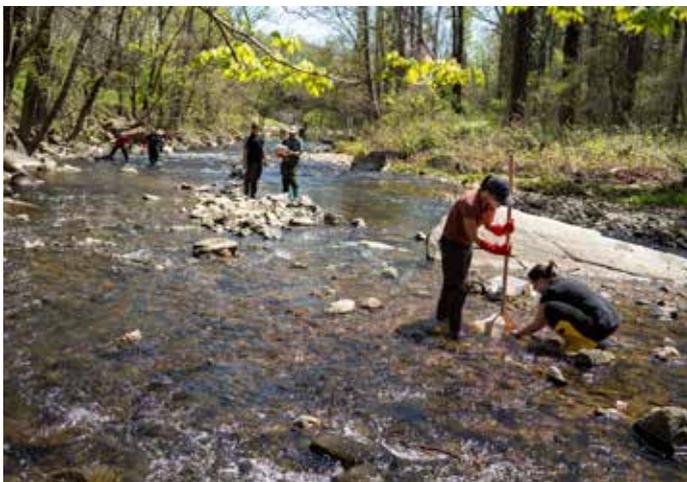
As the Audubon Naturalist Society celebrates its 125th year, it is important to remember our roots: volunteers. ANS was founded by volunteers, and volunteers continue to support us in all areas of our mission.

"Volunteering at ANS is special because we have such a variety of opportunities," says Volunteer Coordinator Peihan Orestes (pictured above). "Whether you want to help in-person or from home, work with kids or adults, keep your hands clean or get 'em dirty, we have something for everyone."

Before joining the ANS staff, Peihan completed our Master Naturalist program and volunteered for a variety of projects.

"I became familiar with the grounds and got to meet so many members of the amazing community here that I decided to make it my home base for all things nature!"

ANS offers volunteer opportunities to fit a variety of schedules, interests, and abilities. If you are interested in volunteering with ANS, please complete a volunteering application at <https://bit.ly/3sTmozy> or send an email to peihan.orestes@anshome.org.



Volunteer stream monitoring teams conduct aquatic surveys in Prince George's County.

Member and Staff Photos

Whether they capture images during an ANS field trip or class, or they take photos during their own nature outings, we love it when members, staff, and volunteers share some of their great photos with us! Here are a few recent submissions. If you would like to share nature photos for publication or for sharing on social media, please email us at hostmaster@anshome.org.

You can also tag us on social media at [@anstweets](https://twitter.com/anstweets) on Twitter; [@ansnature](https://www.instagram.com/ansnature) on Instagram; or [@AudubonNaturalistSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AudubonNaturalistSociety) on Facebook.



Our Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason snapped this image of one of her favorite birds—a Green Heron—at one of her favorite spots: a cattail marsh upriver of Carderock along the Canal.



A showy Bloodroot caught the eye of Carolyn Peirce, a long-time ANS member and current Board Member. Bloodroot is one of the earliest blooms announcing the arrival of spring in our area.



Thanks to ANS member Sy Chen, we can now see why this common local butterfly is called a Question Mark. See the curved white line with a dot below it on the underside of the wing?



Sy Chen captured this amazing shot of a Rusty Blackbird on our April 3 “Sights and Sounds of Early Spring” field trip at Riley’s Lock. This overwintering visitor is an uncommon species in our region.

Staff Updates



Farewell Mitch!



For the past four years, ANS has been fortunate to have **Mitch Greene** as Volunteer Coordinator. Mitch connected hundreds of people to our mission work, welcoming all nature lovers to enjoy, learn about

and protect the natural world with us. He recruited and trained three classes of Master Naturalists, trained our staff to effectively work with volunteers, and led volunteers himself in restoration work at Woodend. You can see his handiwork in special touches, such as a charming wattle fence of Japanese maple saplings that keeps hikers on the trail and out of sensitive restoration areas. Happily, Mitch will remain an ANS volunteer himself!

Welcome Peihan!



We are excited to welcome **Peihan Orestes** as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Peihan was trained as a Master Naturalist by her predecessor, Mitch Greene, in 2018 and has been actively volunteering with ANS ever since. She's very excited

to do even more with our amazing volunteers! She used to be a neuroscientist, but now she loves teaching kids and getting her hands dirty. Most of her spare time is spent running on our local trails or rolling logs to look for bugs (she really likes all things creepy and crawly). She hopes to see you all outside soon!

Welcome Monica!



We are also very happy to welcome **Monica Botto** as the new Naturalist Shop assistant. Monica was born in Panama and raised partly in Central America, the Caribbean and

Miami Beach. A lifelong nature lover and explorer since childhood, she spent most of her time outdoors. She likes balance, creativity and beauty so she studied Fine Art and Graphic Design in New York City. Most importantly she's a full-time mom of two young boys, a partner in life to her husband Chris and fur parent to her lab mix pup.

Welcome Lisa!



Lisa Goodnight is thrilled to be the new Audience Engagement Manager. No stranger to the ANS community, you may have seen her at a Taking Nature Black or Naturally Latinos Conference when she worked on

those teams as an independent contractor. Over the course of her career which includes a stint in journalism, she advocated for women, newsroom diversity, and children. She loves to bring her own children to work when possible. Even though they know her focus goes beyond birds, they get a kick out of saying, "Look mom there goes your boss" when they see one fly by.



Restoration

The Wonders of Spring at Woodend

The mild and rainy weather has brought us a wonderful spring at Woodend with many beautiful gifts of nature to enjoy. In the first year after our major stream and trail restoration project was completed, the stream and forest are filled with a long list of ferns, wildflowers, and flowering shrubs and trees. Spring beauty, trout lily, wood poppy, wild geranium, New York fern, Christmas fern, smooth yellow violet, common blue violet, wild ginger, bloodroot, enchanter's nightshade, jewelweed, blueberries, serviceberries, blackhaw viburnum, strawberry bush, and so much more! In one of our more recent restoration projects, an area dominated by Japanese pachysandra and Japanese maple is now filled with over 20 species of native wildflowers, trees, and shrubs. One can see mayapple, heartleaf foamflower, wild ginger, green and gold, elderberry, and chokeberry flowering this year. Also in this area are rare butternut trees donated to us to protect this declining species. These beautiful spring plants also support diverse fauna. Chipping sparrows, song sparrows, catbirds, bluebirds, tree swallows, ovenbirds, wood thrush, and palm warblers have all been observed visiting Woodend this spring.



Trout lily, spring beauties, mayapple and foam flower are thriving this year in the forest understory. Photos by Bradley Simpson.

Woodend Tours

Enjoy the warmth of the summer sun during our wonderful walks led by ANS staff and volunteers. Dates and times for our walks can be found at <https://anshome.org/woodend-tours/>. We hope to see you on one at Woodend this summer! For more information, please contact Restoration Manager, Bradley Simpson, at bradley.simpson@anshome.org.

On the first Saturday of each month, families with young children can join our Master Naturalist volunteers on morning strolls around Woodend. These **Family Walks at Woodend** are designed to communicate the wonders of Woodend's habitats for young audiences.

Saturday Morning Bird Walks occur once a month on the second Saturday, providing an opportunity to view and appreciate the birds around Woodend. These walks will introduce participants to birding, including the basics of binocular usage. Come see the summer residents that call Woodend home.

Mindfulness walks through **Forest Bathing** are also available and led by leaders from A Greener Mind. There will be one walk per month offered in June, July, August and September.

Finally, restoration staff members, Bradley Simpson and Alice Sturm, and expert volunteers will lead educational walks focused on **Notable Trees**, **Native Plant Gardens**, and **Natural Habitats** of Woodend, respectively. Staff-led private tours on these subjects are also available and can be scheduled by visiting the Woodend Tours page on our website <https://anshome.org/woodend-private-tour/>.

Golden ragwort and woodland phlox are show stoppers along the upgraded brick path to our Learning Garden classroom.



Pinxterbloom is a gorgeous, deciduous native azalea. Find it in our Blair Native Plant garden and along the Woodend trails.



Banner Year for Spring Ephemerals at Woodend

by Alice Sturm, Garden Programs Manager

It's been a lovely spring in the gardens. It was a banner year for spring ephemerals in the Blair Garden. We were literally weeding Virginia bluebells out of the path. Now that they and the bloodroot have faded, we're admiring the columbine, fringed bleedingheart, rue anemone, pinxter azalea and geraniums, and looking forward to seeing some blooms from penstemon, summersweet, shrubby St. John's wort, coral honeysuckle and more in the coming weeks and months. We were enchanted to find a baby snake as we weeded the raspberry beds—and equal parts enchanted and dismayed to see another baby snake dangling from the talons of a Red-shouldered Hawk above the restored meadow the next day.

Speaking of which, we're excited to be back working in the meadows after a COVID hiatus. The clipping of perennial invasives has already begun, and this summer we are looking forward to a little planting and a lot of taking inventory. Our species inventory will inform our plans to ensure the meadows are buzzing and blooming for years to come.

In addition to our own gardens, it's been great fun seeing some of yours! I love to visit with people who are passionate about increasing the habitat value of their gardens, whether they are working with an established garden or have only recently gotten interested in native plants. Whether you book a consult, or simply visit our native plant gardens at Woodend, we hope to be a source of both inspiration and information on gardening with native plants.

ANS Garden Consultations

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

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

Schedule Your Yard/Garden Consultation for \$125 at <https://anshome.org/woodend-garden/>



Did you know that ANS installed a bike repair station at the Jones Mill Road trailhead? Bikers from the area are discovering Woodend is a great place to take a break! The repair station includes an air pump, allen wrenches, and other common tools needed for quick fixes. Photo by Ben Israel.



Bloomin' Birdathon



Great Blue Heron at Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens by Myron Fields

42nd Bloomin' Birdathon



Downy Woodpecker by Jane Gamble

Thank you to the many counters, sponsors, and donors who helped make this year's 42nd annual Bloomin' Birdathon a huge success! The Birdathon is one of our most popular fundraising events because it encourages people of all ages to get outside and challenge themselves to find as many species of birds, wildflowers, or whatever they love in nature. It is also one of our most important fundraising events because money pledged by sponsors of our counters supports our environmental education, conservation, and restoration programs. You can find a list of this year's counters and you can still donate at anshome.org/Birdathon-donation.

THANK YOU to our 2022
Bloomin' Birdathon
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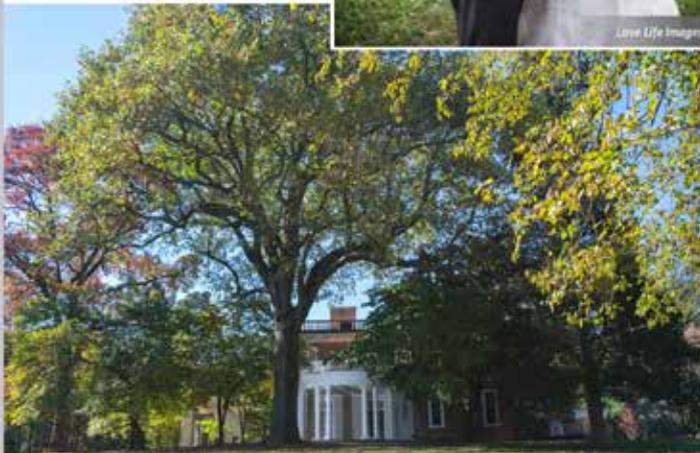
Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion



Weddings

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Milestones



Climate-controlled tent included
woodendsanctuary.org

Volunteer Opportunity to serve on ANS Board of Directors and Board-led Committees

ANS is in search of a few good volunteer Board members and Committee members. This is a great opportunity for young professionals to advance their careers and for seasoned members to bring their expertise to ANS leadership. In particular, ANS would like to enlist a diverse cohort of Board and Committee members who have a passion for the natural world and a deep commitment to principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility. This year, of particular interest are volunteers with experience in:

- Business Law
- Non-profit Financial Accounting
- Brand Strategy
- Local Business Leadership
- Community Outreach and Organizing
- Climate and Conservation Advocacy
- Human Health and Access to Nature

We are eager to include members from throughout the DC metro region, especially those from Virginia and the District of Columbia where we are seeking broader representation. If you would like to be considered for Board or Committee service, please contact corinna.fisk@anshome.org.

Did you know you can help ANS at no extra cost to you? **amazon smile** You shop. Amazon gives.

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THANK YOU!

Senior Naturalist Endowment Fund established by Jessie Harris and Woody Cunningham

ANS has received an extraordinary gift of \$500,000 to establish a Senior Naturalist Endowment Fund, courtesy of long-standing and generous members Jessie Harris and George 'Woody' Cunningham. This visionary Fund will support Senior Naturalist compensation, research, materials, travel and professional development.

The position of Senior Naturalist is like a keystone species in the ANS ecosystem. The Senior Naturalist serves as ANS's lead natural history expert, making nature learning memorable and motivating for people of all ages. And anyone who has participated in a program led by Stephanie Mason knows just how fascinating nature can be when explained by our Senior Naturalist.

Since ANS hired our first paid staff in the 1960s, our Senior Naturalists have inspired thousands of adults and children to enjoy, learn about and protect nature. They've trained fledgling students to become outstanding natural history instructors themselves. And they have inspired generations of people to love nature, pursue environmental careers and join advocacy campaigns.

The Harris-Cunningham Senior Naturalist Endowment Fund creates a powerful legacy that will enable ANS to continue to employ high quality, talented, top-level educators for generations to come. We are tremendously grateful to Jessie Harris and Woody Cunningham for this thoughtful and meaningful gift, and we are confident that their philanthropic leadership will inspire others to contribute to the Fund.

If you are interested in contributing to the Senior Naturalist Endowment Fund, please contact corinna.fisk@anshome.org.



Remembering Scott Fosler



All of us at ANS were saddened by the news that former Board President, Roland Scott ("Scott") Fosler, passed away in March. Scott was a consummate public servant who served two terms as Councilmember on the Montgomery County Council including as Vice President and President. In addition, Scott served twice as Mayor of the Town of Chevy Chase. All of us at ANS count ourselves fortunate that Scott served two terms on the ANS Board of Directors, from 2014 - 2020. He was ANS Board President from 2017-2019.

As ANS President, Scott was at the helm through our enormously successful capital campaign, Nature for All. Under Scott's able leadership, ANS was able to restore our headquarters at Woodend Nature Sanctuary. Nature for All revitalized Woodend's stream, pond and forest floor, added a wheelchair accessible nature trail, placed 23 acres of forest in permanent conservation easement, and will culminate with the installation of a Nature Play Space that will enable children of all abilities to play together in nature. Before he died, Scott was able to tour the completed Nature for All projects and enjoy the good work his legacy produced.

Scott was an incredibly smart and generous man who loved his family and loved nature. He could debate on most subjects, but always kept civility at the fore. He was a passionate environmentalist who, with ANS, helped establish the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, a nationally recognized model for conservation that has endured for over 40 years. He worked tirelessly with ANS and other partners to protect Ten Mile Creek and the Little Seneca Lake Reservoir, the only freshwater emergency drinking water supply in Montgomery County. The ANS community will miss him.

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS February-April 2022

IN HONOR OF:

Adam Blayney

Olivia Sargon-Glasgow & Michael Blayney

Anne Cottingham

Potomac Area Neighbors Club

Sarah Payne

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IN MEMORY OF:

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Gigi Green

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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



Join the Legacy Society

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

This year, as ANS celebrates 125 years of connecting DC area residents to nature, we ask you to consider

sustaining your support long into the future. Your bequest to ANS will help serve the growing, rich diversity of this region, combat climate change, protect clean water, preserve our precious green spaces, and nurture the next generation of environmental leaders.

For more information contact Corinna Fisk at corinna.fisk@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x31.



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www.anshome.org/naturalist-shop