

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Summer 2021

ANSHOME.ORG



The Sensations of Summer

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-Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

Sunday 12-5 PM

GROUND HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

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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 2021

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COVER Green Treefrog by Jane Gamble

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.

From the Director

Sensational

We've all experienced so many sensations since the start of 2021. For many of you, I hope one of those sensations was the hopeful jab of a vaccination or two. With sore arms and side effects behind us, and antibodies in our systems, we can lean into the sweet sensations of this summer, including the incredible display that comes to our region every 17 years.



The emergence of the Brood X cicadas (see article on page 11) is amazing! Just think of the evolutionary process that led to this loud multitude emerging from the earth to sate their predators and survive by sheer and overwhelming numbers! We're working hard to make sure schoolchildren don't say "EWWW" when the cicadas appear. Instead we're turning that into "AHHH" and appreciation for the wonders of nature. You can find all the resources we've developed with our partners at friendtocicadas.org.

We'll enjoy the refreshing sensation of meeting each other outside without masks for the first time in more than a year. And how wonderful it will be to lift our binoculars skyward without masks fogging our eyeglass lenses. I hope you'll make a personal trip to Woodend to feast your eyes on the outstanding progress we've made on our Nature for All restoration projects during the pandemic. There are new features to see everywhere you turn – from a restored stream, to a wheelchair accessible nature trail, to permeable parking areas and new, dark sky lights to robust native plantings all over! But of course, all has not returned to normal yet – and the new normal is proving challenging to predict.

As we look ahead, I am curious about how science and psychology will blend in peoples' willingness to gather in larger groups or travel by

airplane. I suspect school teachers will be so busy corralling students who have been out of the school for more than a year that our naturalists will not visit classrooms or lead field trips until next spring. So we'll keep delivering environmental education online to schools in the near term to keep the nature connection strong. I am monitoring our collective appetite for all-virtual programs as we suddenly have new options including going out to eat, visiting museums, and seeing loved ones.

And while uncertainty abounds, I am certain about some important things. The talented ANS staff will nimbly adapt to the new normal using the programming tools we've discovered and honed during the pandemic. Our amazing volunteers will continue to help steward our sanctuaries, track the health of local waterways, educate people of all ages about the glories of nature, and speak up to defend the environment and demand environmental justice in all arenas of public opinion. I am so grateful for your continued membership and generous contributions during this protracted world health crisis. ANS will survive to serve people and nature in the DC region because of your support!

But there will be changes afoot, and I encourage you to participate in the decision-making that ANS will face as we emerge from the pandemic. Please see page 31 for a notice about volunteer Board and Committee service. Take part in important conversations about pressing environmental issues by signing up for one of our Conservation Cafés on page 9. And on page 40, please complete two surveys. Let us know your thoughts on the prospect of Audubon Naturalist Society changing its name. And help us plan for interpretation at Woodend. Your opinion counts!

How wonderful it will be to see you all in person again this summer and fall. And while ANS will emerge as a different organization than it was before the pandemic, the new Audubon Naturalist Society will be nothing less than sensational! Of that, I'm certain.

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STAFF UPDATES

We say goodbye to **Christina Rogelio**, who had been a Chesapeake Conservation Corps member with the Restoration Department since August 2020. She has been an integral member of the restoration department since the day she started. Christina has helped manage our native plant gardens, run garden programming, and execute our first ever native plant sales. Her capstone project is her greatest achievement, restoring a degraded drainage area within the forest that was previously dominated by non-native pachysandra. Nearby logs were strategically placed to manage stormwater and many native plants were added, including 74 trees and shrubs of 16 different species and over 100 herbaceous plants of three species. We are very proud of the work Christina has done for us.

We are excited to welcome **Lashawn Brown** as our new Senior Accountant. She brings 12 years of accounting experience with nonprofits, membership associations, and other organizations. Over the course of her career, she has worked on a wide range of accounting and payroll functions, bringing a depth of experience and skills that meshes well with our Finance Team.

We also welcome **Chrissy Arnold** as our Water Quality Research & Outreach Intern through fall 2021. She is a recent graduate of UMD with joint degrees in Environmental Science & Policy and GIS, Cartography, and Remote Sensing. Chrissy is also a dedicated birder who will bring her past career in restaurant management to the task of making quick decisions in the field while managing our DC Volunteer Bacteria Monitoring project and using her GIS skills to help us pilot a new State of the Streams report.

Fireflies: The Gatekeepers to a Collective Nostalgia and the Sensations of Summer

by Jane Gamble, Gardener and Wildlife Photographer

“Can we come over and catch your fireflies?” ask our little neighbors, who spend a lot of time in our yard monitoring bird nests, feeding tadpoles, and sampling ripe berries from the garden. “Sure, just be careful not to smoosh them,” I say as the kids stream onto our warm summer lawn. I watch as they leap into the air to catch the highest lights or crouch with cupped hands to gently scoop up more cooperative fireflies below. This summer evening graced with the unfettered joy of the children chasing glowing orbs reminds me of my own childhood. It is as if fireflies are the gatekeepers to a collective nostalgia for a time of innocence. I can see myself, my brothers and sisters, all wearing our pajamas as we dance across the soft grass in our bare feet, chasing tiny fairy insects that kindly alight on our small hands before spreading their wings to fly off and begin their dance again.

But the neighbor kids haven’t come over just because they always receive a warm welcome and a nature adventure. It is because their own yard is devoid of these tiny sentinels of summer. While my yard has deeply planted landscape beds, borders of evergreen trees, lots of tall grasses and a small wildlife pond, their yards have lawn and nothing but lawn.

That need not be the case. With a few landscape adjustments, all yards could be home to fireflies. There are thousands of firefly species spread across the world and more than 30 different species in our area. In North America, the most common is the Eastern Firefly (*Photinus pyralis*), which is about half an inch long and emits a yellow-green light. Most of us can welcome the Eastern Firefly to our yards in the warmer months of summer if we plant properly. (See sidebar.)

Fireflies start to appear in our area in late April and can linger throughout the summer if conditions are right. Fireflies are classified as beetles. Their unique characteristic is the ‘flash’ of bioluminescence that they use to attract mates and communicate with others. Different species have different flash patterns and colors. In many species, both sexes glow as do their eggs, larvae and pupae!

And fireflies are primarily carnivorous. The larvae usually eat snails, slugs, and worms. The Tiger Firefly (*Photuris pyralis*) even feeds on other species of fireflies. The Tiger Firefly is larger than the Eastern Firefly - about an inch long - with a “shield” that covers its neck and head. The Tiger Firefly has a “greener” flash than the Eastern. Sometimes Tiger Fireflies spot the flashing

lights of other fireflies and attack. Other times they mimic the mating flashes of other species to lure their prey into a deadly trap.

If you don’t have a yard of your own, you can enjoy these wonders at Audubon Naturalist Society’s nature sanctuaries, Woodend in Chevy Chase, Maryland and Rust in Leesburg, Virginia. The sensations of summer take many forms, and I would argue that the magic of fireflies, moving like fairy lights through languid evenings, are one sensation we should experience and enjoy.

Tips for Attracting Fireflies to Your Backyard

Here are a few easy landscape features to attract fireflies to our yards and community spaces (like libraries, schools and faith communities) and to benefit other wildlife, too.

- **Shelter** - Fireflies need a place to shelter during the day, such as thick evergreen trees, low shrubs, or tall grasses.
- **Darkness** - Artificial lights like outdoor lamps can interrupt fireflies’ ability to communicate with each other through their bioluminescent flashes. So look around your yard and turn off any unnecessary exterior lights at night.
- **Chemical-free environment** - Put away the pesticide! Fireflies and their larval form are susceptible to pesticides because they live on, or under, the ground. The firefly larvae feed on slugs, snails and other small insects, so poisoning these creatures also poisons the firefly larvae.
- **Moisture** - Fireflies are attracted to moisture, so consider putting in a small wildlife pond. There is nothing better for bringing in wildlife than a pond, so the rewards of investing in a small water feature go well beyond the joys of supporting fireflies.



Firefly photo by Alonso Abugattas. For more basic information on fireflies, go to capitalnaturalist.blogspot.com and search for fireflies.



Femmes fatale fireflies (Photuris) eating a Photinus firefly. Photo by Alonso Abugattas.



Wide garden beds create great habitat for wildlife while still leaving room for children to run and play. In fact, bringing wildlife into your yard makes it that much more interesting for children - like a living lab! Photo by Jane Gamble.

The Magic of Wildlife Ponds

by Jane Gamble, Gardener and Wildlife Photographer



An American Robin bathes in the small pond at Jane Gamble's home.

It happened so quickly. One moment I'm reading an advertisement for a free pond liner, and the next thing I know I'm knee deep in a seemingly bottomless pit. When the dust on the pit had settled (literally), the liner was in place and I had what I'd long wanted - a wildlife pond. I garden to support the little ecosystem that is our yard and garden, and I know that one of the very best things we can do to support wildlife is to provide water. My pond is only 5 feet long by 3 feet wide, but it is an oasis for the creatures that make our garden their home.

I've lined the edge of the pond with flat stones and planted all around it with ferns and woodland flora to provide habitat and cover for the animals that are attracted to the water. Small branches are stacked in a protected area behind the pond to provide more shelter and a place for amphibians to hibernate. Because it is important to provide a means for little animals to crawl out of the pond should they fall in, I've laid a branch across the pond that dips perfectly into the water. It provides an ideal spot for birds to bathe and is a point of emergency egress. Since we've installed the pond, I've seen squirrels, raccoons, birds, and a wandering Box turtle come to the water to drink. Skinks and gentle garter snakes make the rounds and we have quite a population of frogs who have taken up residence.



A Coastal Plains Leopard Frog catches some rays on a log in Jane's pond.

Ponds benefit from recirculating water. I found an efficient solar powered pump and connected it to a bamboo waterspout. The sound of running water is lovely to hear and also attracts wildlife. The pump works on all but the coldest days of winter and keeps the pond from freezing over. Our little pond provides a source of water for the birds throughout our coldest months.

As for mosquito control, the running water from the solar pump discourages mosquitos, who primarily lay their eggs on still water. We also added some goldfish to the pond last year to help keep down any mosquito larvae. The fish overwintered beautifully in leaf litter in the bottom of the pond and continue to play the role of mosquito predators in the little ecosystem.

In the early morning, I sit beside the pond on a tree stump I positioned among ferns. As I contemplate the quiet, the Leopard frogs strike up a chorus to serenade the bathing birds. At night, when I linger by the pond, I listen to tree frogs sing out for mates and watch fireflies flash overhead. I'm awed by how quickly one little pond has enhanced the lives of so much wildlife. If you have a place for a pond in your yard, I encourage you to dig in!

For a 10 minute video to see how Jane created a sustainable wildlife garden, visit <https://youtu.be/s-t9KAF9e7q>.



Spotted Turtles such as this one are found throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Their home range can be anywhere from one to eight acres.
Photo by Jane Gamble.

Thank you to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for being a Copper Level/\$2,500 Sponsor for our Taking Nature Black Conference.

Thank you to the National Wildlife Federation for being a Bronze Level/\$5,000 Sponsor for our Taking Nature Black Conference.



Conservation



Policy and Advocacy News

Residents of Manchester, Texas Demand Environmental Justice. Photo credit: Bryan Parras via www.ej4all.org/whos-in-danger-report-images



Regional/National

Environmental Justice Takes Center Stage: The new Biden Administration is prioritizing environmental justice (EJ) in its policy making. From important new Executive Orders, to key EJ provisions included in the proposed budget and other spending bills, the federal government now has an opportunity to marry environmental protection, human health, and economic opportunity in new and powerful ways – like creating a Civilian Climate Corps and fixing poisonous lead water pipes. Congress is stepping up as well, with Representatives Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and Donald McEachin (D-Va. and a 2021 Taking Nature Black (TNB) Environmental Champion) re-introducing the EJ for All Act. For too long, communities of color and poorer communities have suffered disproportionate environmental harms (like exposure to toxins and unsafe air and water) as well as lacking access to environmental benefits (like forests to visit and parks to play in). ANS is thrilled to support these new federal initiatives, and honored that 2020 and 2021 TNB Champions Jerome Foster and Catherine Flowers are included in the new White House EJ Advisory Council.

TAKE ACTION: Let's Get Rid of Plastic Bottle Pollution: Plastic bottles make up nearly 45% of trash found in waterways throughout D.C. They also make up a large part of litter on streets. It's time for D.C. to lead the way in reducing plastic bottle pollution by shifting the burden of cleaning up bottles to beverage makers, instead of D.C. residents. Cleaning up bottle litter can create jobs, make nature more accessible for all Washingtonians, and improve the health of neighborhoods and streams. ANS is working with partners to build energy for a solution to plastic bottles, and we need your help! Head to the ANS Blog to sign our petition and learn more.

Maryland

ANS Opposes the MAGLEV Project: The Magnetic Levitation Train (MAGLEV) is a high-speed train project planned to connect Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. The project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was released earlier this year, and ANS, our members, and partners submitted comments in opposition to the current plan. MAGLEV will have major environmental and equity impacts to the region. Check out our [ANS Blog](#) for resources and to find out how you can help.



ANS staff checking for methane gas leaks near an elementary school in Washington, DC. Learn more about the Beyond Gas campaign to move away from climate-harming methane in upcoming workshops.

TAKE ACTION: Fight Beltway Expansion: It is time to take action on the Beltway and I-270 highway expansion. The Board of Public Works (BPW) is expected to vote on the Beltway expansion's pre-development contract, which would be a green light to the expansion. It is critical that the BPW DOES NOT move forward in approving the pre-development contract until the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is issued later this fall. Check out our [ANS Blog](#) for resources and to send a letter to the BPW.

Interested in getting involved or learning more?

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

Conservation



Virginia

Increased protections for streams may be coming: Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality is working on new amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area regulations that aim to assist locales across the state in regulating the use and development of land and in protecting the quality of state waters. The new language considers all factors relevant to the protection of water quality, with two new and particularly exciting focuses: (1) coastal resilience and adaptation to sea-level rise and climate change and (2) The preservation of mature trees or planting of trees as a water quality protection tool and as a means of providing other natural resource benefits. Read our comments on the [ANS Blog](#) in support of this exciting step forward.

Water Keepers programming gets funded: ANS is thrilled to be the recipient of The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia's Environment Fund in support of our new *Water Keepers of Little Hunting Creek* program. ANS is partnering with United Communities and many others to offer events that help residents in Route 1 corridor communities view their creek in a new way. We will focus on what factors influence stream health, how stream health relates to clean water and community health and what residents can do in their community to improve both. Residents will be empowered to take action to improve their environment.

Loudoun's Greening Your Neighborhood program participants get inspired! With an eye towards ecological sustainability, 40 participants from 25 Loudoun County communities are engaging their Homeowners' Association Boards to implement a conservation project in their communities. This winter, ANS hosted two half-day workshops to inspire participants and equip them with the tools needed to drive change locally.

On May 15, ANS hosted an in-person tour of conservation projects in the area during which participants talked directly with those who led the implementation of the projects. <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/loudoun-county/>

Virtual Conservation Café

Join us online for inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Your \$5-15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! See detailed descriptions and register at anshome.org/conservation-cafe. All programs run from 7-8:30 pm. Please join us for Latino Conservation Week events July 20-25 on p. 17.

Take Action with ANS Advocates

Thursday, June 17 (7-8:30 pm)

Join ANS Director of Conservation Eliza Cava and DC Conservation Advocate Ari Eisenstadt for a conversation on what we're working on now all around the DC region: land use, transportation, trash, climate, and more. Learn about our current campaigns against Beltway & I-270 expansion; plastic bottle pollution in DC's waterways; and getting Route 1 right in Fairfax County. You'll have opportunities to take real, impactful action right there during the Café, and learn how you can use your voice to support conservation priorities around the region. Join us!



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety

Workshops & Events

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



Conservation Advocacy 101

Wednesday, July 14 (1-3:30 pm)
Members \$20; nonmembers \$30
Instructor: Eliza Cava via Zoom

What's your environmental issue?

Widening the Beltway? Lead in school water pipes? Threats to a park? New development coming to your neighborhood? Fighting climate change at the local level? Our workshop will cover the key introductory advocacy skills: identifying issues and solutions; researching and communicating ideas; developing an action plan; talking to decision-makers; and building coalitions to broaden support for your issue. Sign up today to make a difference in your community.



Un-Natural Gas: Methane's Threat to Climate and Health

Zoom presentation: Tuesday, June 22 (6:30-7:30 pm)
Field workshops detecting gas leaks on DC streets:
Friday, July 9 (4-5:30 pm)
Tuesday, July 13 (5:30-7 pm)
Tuesday, July 20 (11:30 am-1 pm)
Instructors: Ari Eisenstadt & Barbara Briggs

FREE

Let's get Beyond Gas! Join ANS, Friends Meeting of Washington, and the DC Sierra Club to learn about methane gas (AKA natural gas) and its contribution to poor air quality in your home and your neighborhood. After the presentation, sign yourself and your neighbors up to use our gas detection device to find gas leaks near where you live.



Camp Audubon

Forest Friends

Forest Friends is a hybrid virtual/in-person experience for young children and their families

We invite you to be part of a connected community of like-minded families who value nature-based, whole child, sensory-rich educational experiences.

- Weekly parent-child, small group, teacher-led hikes will be held at Woodend Sanctuary on Tuesdays or Thursdays with up to 8 families in each hike (9:15-10:30am or 11am-12:15 pm). Each group will include time to sing, share discoveries, socialize, play, and marvel at the incredible natural world together. The theme for our summer programming will be life cycles!
- A weekly materials kit will be distributed each hike. The kit will include daily activities and suggestions on ways to connect your child(ren) with nature. Materials are geared toward 3-to-5-year-old children; however, activities will be open-ended, nature-based, and creative and may therefore appeal to a wider range of children. Each weekly kit will also include a virtual story time, and scavenger hunt to be enjoyed at home.
- Optional Zoom meetings (Wednesday mornings) will focus on connection and interaction with one another and working on projects together with materials from our kits. We'll suggest outdoor activities around your home, at a nearby park, or your own independent visits to Woodend Sanctuary.

Summer programming is split up into two sessions, one session June 7-25, and the other July 12-30. You may register for one session or both. Tuition is \$325 for 3 weeks for ANS members and \$400 for nonmembers. [REGISTER](#)



Photos by Ben Israel.

Youth Programs Update

This past year has been one of challenges, but also innovation. We made the tough decision to close our Nature Preschool and curtail summer camps in 2020. But we continued to serve children and families with new programs like Woodend Wanderers, Forest Friends and Unplug and Play designed to minimize Covid risks. This year, more than ever, it was crucial to get kids outside for their physical and mental health. That's why we are so excited to be running in-person camps all summer long. We are also thrilled to announce that our Nature Preschool will reopen its doors this fall. Birthday parties at Woodend will also make a return in September. And with the newly restored stream and trail there's no better time for an outdoor celebration!

GreenKids Corner: Cicada-palooza!

During the spring of 2021, our GreenKids staff had such fun replacing fear with fascination by teaching students about the amazing periodical cicadas of Brood X. Thousands of students and teachers downloaded our free, activity-packed digital notebook and watched the student-oriented presentation from scientists on our website, www.friendtocicadas.org. In addition, GreenKids staff hosted more than 50 livestreams and Zoom presentations to classrooms throughout the DMV. These were some of our favorite questions from students:

Do cicadas hibernate underground?

Cicadas are actually very active underground as they feed on tree roots, tunnel, and molt in their underground chambers. While their activities may slow down during the colder months, scientists do not have any evidence that they hibernate.

Why are there some blue-eyed cicadas?

Eye color is controlled by genes, and strange mutations and variants can occasionally occur. While most Brood X cicadas have red eyes, you will sometimes notice differences such as orange or even blue eyes. For most of their lives, the Brood X nymphs have unpigmented, white eyes. They begin to turn color in the fall before their emergence year.

Do cicadas pee?

You may experience this if you hold a cicada or stand under a tree full of cicadas. But don't worry – it's just watery tree sap that they are eliminating from their bodies!

Do the nymphs jump off the ends of tree branches?

Not quite. Later this summer, the eggs that were laid in tree branches will begin to hatch, and the tiny nymphs will begin to feed on the tree fluids. When they're ready, these first instar nymphs will walk out of their egg nests and drop off the trees to the ground, where they will instinctively burrow and begin feeding on plant rootlets.

Do cicadas bite?

This was the most common question we received from students. One of the many great things about cicadas is that they are very gentle and easy to handle. They do not bite or sting. In fact, they have sucking mouthparts, like a straw, that are specialized for feeding on the xylem of tree roots.

How do cicada nymphs breathe underground?

Insects do not breathe through nostrils like we do, and they do not have lungs. Instead, insects have a network of tiny tubes called tracheae. Air enters these tubes through openings in the thorax and abdomen called spiracles. There is enough oxygen in the underground chambers created by the nymphs to enable them to breathe. When they molt, you can sometimes see white, threadlike tubes left behind on the exoskeleton – those are the tracheal linings!

What happens if a tree is cut down? Do the cicadas all die or is there enough tree sap in the roots to keep them going?

Roots of many trees can stay alive for years after a tree is cut down, so if the area has not been completely paved over, there is a good chance that the nymphs will continue to get enough food to stay alive. If a cicada tree is cut down within a few years of the emergence, many of the cicadas will have completed developing already and are just waiting for their scheduled emergence time. Did you notice any cicadas emerging near trees that had been cut down in your neighborhood? If so, they probably had a longer way to go to find an upright surface to climb and start their final molt to adulthood.



Brood X cicadas made their dramatic appearance in May 2021.



GreenKids Director, Diane Lill, enjoyed sharing her love of cicadas with students from Forest Knolls Elementary.

Children and Nature Photos



Kids at Long Branch Trail were using leaves and bark patterns to identify trees with ANS Naturalist Gina Ghertner. Trees are also happy to get a hug once in a while. Photo by Ben Israel.



Our Long Brach community outreach program connects families and children to local nature. Here, a young program participant enjoys learning that Tulip tree leaves look like little cat faces. Photo by Ben Israel.



Each week the Forest Friends have been uncovering a new piece of the cicada life cycle. Photo by Ben Israel.

Adult Nature Programs

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

Wild places are closer than you think. ®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)

Section A: June 9 – Carderock

Section B: June 23 - Riley's Lock

Section C: July 7 – Swain's Lock

Section D: July 21 – Pennyfield Lock

Leaders: Gina Ghertner (A & D) and Carol Hayes (B & C)

Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Summer arrives! It's likely to be hot, so we'll keep our pace along Maryland's C&O Canal to a shuffle as we visit four spots along the Potomac River. We'll stop often to observe birds, wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, snakes, and whatever else we may find underfoot or overhead in this nearby parkland.

Dragons of the Air

Sundays (9-11:30 am)

A. June 13 – Lake Artemesia, Greenbelt, MD

B. August 1 – Pine Lake, Wheaton Regional Park, MD

Leader: Lisa Shannon

Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42

The wetlands protected in two urban parks are ideal spots to begin learning how to ID the most common dragonflies in our area. Naturalist Lisa Shannon will help dragonfly enthusiasts 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.

Solstice Walk at Little Bennett

Friday, June 18 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Explore this botanical gem among Montgomery County Parks as the season slips from spring into summer. At 3,700 acres, the Park near Clarksburg, MD harbors rich plant diversity due to its many habitats. On a 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 and downhill, on natural surface trails which may be muddy and/or slippery.*

Fern Basics

Saturday, June 19 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

What makes a plant a fern? And what are the most common ferns in our area? Walk the moderate trails of Riverbend Park, home to at least fifteen fern species, with a naturalist who will share the answers to these questions. He'll also help you learn some of the common characteristics you'll be able to use to identify ferns on your own. *There will be some uphill/downhill on this hike of several miles. Trails might be muddy and uneven.*

ANS COVID Policy for Outdoor Adult Programs

As of June 1, 2021

Both leaders and participants are asked to observe social distancing throughout the field trip. Any participant or leader who has not been vaccinated for Covid-19 is requested to wear a mask. Of course, participants are always welcome to wear masks if they are more comfortable. At this time, masks are required indoors at Woodend for everyone. Maximums have been increased to 10 participants for summer programs.

This policy is subject to change.

Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies

Thursday, June 24 (7-9 pm)

Sunday, June 27 (morning field trip)

Leaders: 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 moniker—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 join our leader for a morning field trip to the wetland habitats of Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract) near Bowie, MD, where all will have a chance to test their identification skills.

How Does Her Garden Grow?

Friday, June 25 (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 in the Bethesda, MD vicinity.



Jewelweed by Stephanie Mason

Where is Stephanie this summer?

Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason is conducting community science research on butterflies in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park all summer. Field trips that she normally leads will be led by other talented and engaging ANS Naturalists.

Summer Birding Strolls (7-9:30 am)

A. Thursday, July 1 – Blue Mash Nature Trail, MD
(Leader: Mark England)

B. Thursday, July 8 – Huntley Meadows, VA
(Leader: Paul Pisano)

C. Sunday, July 18 – Patuxent Research Refuge headquarters, MD (Leader: Len Bisson)

D. Wednesday, July 28 – Black Hill Regional Park, MD
(Leader: Mark England)

E. Sunday, August 8 – Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA (Leader: Paul Pisano)

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

Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Summertime...and the living is easy

— unless you're a bird busy with nesting chores and the challenges of raising young.

Summertime can also be a more difficult period for nature lovers 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 new series for beginning to mid-level birders. As the series begins, breeding bird activity will still be underway, but by late July and into August, southbound migrants will be on the move. *Expect some open and sunny field conditions at all of our locations. There will be chances to duck into the shade periodically as we keep our pace to a stroll.*



Wonders at Woodend: Forest Bathing Through the Seasons

Saturday, July 3 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Savor the natural joy of this Summer season on a forest bathing walk led by Melanie Choukas-Bradley, a longtime ANS field trip leader and author of *The Joy of Forest Bathing—Reconnect with Wild Places & Rejuvenate Your Life*. Discover the magic of *shinrin-yoku*, translated as “forest bathing,” a nature-oriented mindfulness practice that originated in Japan and has become popular worldwide. Enjoy the restoration of our Woodend Sanctuary as you explore and commune with the living things in its meadows, forest, and Blair Garden. Our leader is a Nature & Forest Therapy Guide with certification from the Association of Nature & Therapy Guides and Programs. *A walk will be scheduled each season in 2021.*

Summer Tree Walks

Section A: Saturday, July 10 (9 am-Noon)
Jug Bay Natural Area of Patuxent River Park, MD
Section B: Friday, July 30 (9:30 am-Noon)
ANS Woodend Sanctuary, MD
Leader: Bradley Simpson
Each walk members: \$30; nonmembers \$42

Summer is a great season to enjoy our local trees—and not just for the cooling shade they provide. During this peak growing period, trees offer observers lots of visual characteristics for identification: leaves, bark, buds, ripening seed pods, and silhouette. Join our Restoration Manager /tree ID teacher on one or both of these outings to experience different habitats and species. Bradley will also discuss tree and wildlife associations. *Walk A to the Coastal Plain bottomlands of Jug Bay Natural Area in PG County will move faster and farther than Walk B, which will explore the Piedmont landscape at our Woodend Sanctuary near Chevy Chase, MD.*

The Summer Side of Rachel Carson Park

Friday, July 16 (9 am-Noon)
Leader: Sujata Roy
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Rachel Carson Conservation Park near Olney, MD protects a variety of natural communities, including oak-hickory woodlands, mountain laurel thickets, rocky outcroppings, Hawlings River bottomlands, and open meadows. Although its woodland trails are frequented as “hot spots” for spring wildflower displays, there’s another season of plant life here which invites appreciation. Join our leader for this summer wildflower hike of up to several miles. *Expect some open, sunny field conditions, as well as some uphill/downhill walking over terrain that may be uneven, rocky and/or muddy.*

Paddle on the Potomac

Wednesday, July 21 (10 am-1 pm)
Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Join a naturalist 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! Our leader is the author of *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*, so she knows this area well. *Canoes or kayaks can be rented or you can bring your own. Registration fee does not include boat rental.*

Ferns and Their Reproduction

Saturday, July 24 (8:30-11 am)
Leader: Kit Sheffield
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

On this field outing to DC’s National Arboretum, we will go beyond basic fern ID and delve into the amazing world of fern reproduction. We’ll discuss how ferns normally reproduce—and some of the odd twists they take along the way. Visiting the Fern Valley area of the Arboretum, we’ll hope to find and identify a variety of fern species which help illustrate our discussions.



Bumblebee by Stephanie Mason

The Buzz on Bees and Wasps

Saturday, August 7 (9-11:30 am)
Leader: Cliff Fairweather
Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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 varied habitats at our Woodend Sanctuary, including open, sunny meadows and our cultivated wildlife gardens.

Summer Fungus Walks

Section A: Wednesday, August 25 (9-11 am)
Section B: Saturday, August 28 (9-11 am)
Leader: Serenella Linares
Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Late August is a great time to be introduced to some of the common local fungi while finding out more about their vital functions in the natural world. Our Woodend Sanctuary will be the site for these walks on trails which are natural surface. The expert leader is one of our own staff, whose knowledge about any and all mushrooms that might pop up in your yard has earned her the accurate and affectionate nickname Mushie. *Note: the focus of our field outings is fungi’s important and under-appreciated role in forest ecology, not the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.*



Join us for LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK

We have four opportunities to learn and celebrate!

Naturalist Hour Virtual Presentations:

- **Tuesday, July 20 at 7 pm via Zoom: The Queer Latinx Experience in the Environmental Movement.** Joe Toolan, Program Assistant: Outreach and Education at The Chesapeake Bay Trust
- **Wednesday, July 21 at 7 pm via Zoom: The American Jobs Plan and What it Means for the Latino Community.** Felipe Benitez, Executive Director of Corazon Latino
- **Thursday, July 22 at 7 pm via Zoom: Empowering Our Community to Fight the Good Fight: Latinx Outreach and Advocacy at ANS.** Denisse Guitarra, Maryland Conservation Advocate, ANS

REGISTER at anshome.org/naturalist-hour starting in mid-June. \$12 members/ \$15 nonmembers, students: FREE. Scholarships available, contact serenella.linares@anshome.org.

- **Sunday, July 25: Bilingual Nature Walk.** Latino families from Fairfax county are invited to enjoy an afternoon connecting with nature at Rust Nature Sanctuary. Families will learn about the local flora and fauna from ANS Mycologist and Adult Programs Director, Serenella Linares and Alonso Abugattas, the Capital Naturalist. This program is brought to you thanks to a collaboration with Defensores de la Cuenca. FREE. For more information and to register visit [ANSHome.org/events-calendar](https://anshome.org/events-calendar) and look under July events.

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Nature Travel Program Update

Due to the continuing re-evaluation of COVID restrictions and travel protocols both here and abroad, we plan to re-start our Nature Travel offerings in early 2022 with a trip to **Costa Rica** led by ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason. We look forward to adding additional trips later in 2022, including our postponed trip to South Texas. Please stay tuned for more to come and check out our website for updates!

Contact carol.hayes@anshome.org for more information.



Green Honeycreeper by Stephanie Mason



Specializing in custom roof and exterior installations and maintenance for historic, contemporary, commercial, and residential properties; since 1914.

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 fall. The time of the program doesn't work for you? No problem. Register and receive a recording of the talk by the end of the month. **Cost is \$12 for ANS members and \$15 for nonmembers.**

40 Birds that Everyone in the DMV Should Know

Tuesday, June 1 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mark Garland, ANS Bartsch Award winner and Naturalist

Bartsch Award winner and ANS Naturalist Mark Garland will introduce us to the 40 species of birds found in the DMV that you should know. Whether you already recognize these friends from your adventures, or are just beginning to observe the birds around you, this is an opportunity to get some inside information and fascinating facts about every one of these species! [REGISTER](#)



The Joys and Heartaches of Sligo Creek, MD

Wednesday, June 9 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Christopher Lancette, Naturalist/Writer/Wonderer and Won-ok Kim, Photographer

"Accidental" naturalists and multimedia storytellers Christopher Lancette and Won-ok Kim share stories of joy and heartache from their work documenting life on Sligo Creek in Silver Spring, Maryland through their website EyeOnSligoCreek.com. Experience their passion for their favorite place – and gain tips for using your voice to inspire people to care about the wild places you love. [REGISTER](#)

Daddy Long Legs: The Marvelously Misunderstood Opiliones

Thursday, June 10 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mercedes Burn, UMBC Professor

UMBC professor Mercedes Burns shows us the marvelous world of daddy long legs. From their common names to their bite, the arachnid order Opiliones, also known as "daddy-longlegs" or "harvestmen," have been historically misunderstood. Dr. Burns dispels common myths about the wonderfully diverse Opiliones of North America by discussing their physiology, behavior, and treatment throughout history. [REGISTER](#)



Hunting for Treasures in the Summer Night Sky

Wednesday, June 2 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Carrie Fitzgerald, Physics and Astronomy Professor, Montgomery College

Let's admire the summer sky, packed with beautiful gems in every direction. Dr. Carrie Fitzgerald, Physics and Astronomy professor, will lead our voyage through the constellations, bright stars, planets, and deep sky objects you can observe this time of year, as well as some of the history and mythology of the sky. Learn about an open source planetarium software package that you can use to see what's in the sky at any time of day, date, or location. Now is the perfect time to get outside and discover the hidden treasures of the summer sky!

[REGISTER](#)

Into the Woods: Families Making Art in Nature

Tuesday, June 8 (7-8 pm)

Sue Fierston, Artist and Author



Get inspired by artist and author Sue Fierston, and head outside to find your nature muse! Sue will share how she uses the natural world, its colors, shapes, and scale to influence all of her artwork. Become a close observer of nature by examining and printing leaves and fish and learn to meditate outdoors with family and friends.

[REGISTER](#)

Fun Facts about Maryland's Mammals

Tuesday, June 15 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Darin Croft, Professor, Dept. of Anatomy, Case Western Reserve University

Can you tell the difference between a mole and a vole? What makes the Virginia opossum such an unusual North American mammal? What actually IS a manatee? Find out the answers to these and other questions with Dr. Darin Croft, as he discusses how Maryland's mammals fit into the great mammal evolutionary tree. Learn how their distinctive adaptations reflect both their ancestry and their ecological niche. [REGISTER](#)

Bugs 101: Common Insects and Arthropods, Their Importance, and Natural History

Wednesday, June 16 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Alonso Abugattas, Capital Naturalist, founder

Join Capital Naturalist Alonso Abugattas and learn all about the little things that run the world - the insects and arthropods, their importance and natural history. These invertebrates play a crucial role in nature in so many ways. Learn about their roles, conservation, and news of their decline during this eye-opening presentation. [REGISTER](#)

The Monarch Butterfly: Charismatic Ambassadors for People and Nature

Thursday, June 17 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Debra Williams, Community Engagement Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy's Community Engagement Specialist, Debra Williams, will share her experiences awakening people's interests in nature through the story of the monarch butterfly. This charismatic creature has been a long-time catalyst for connecting people with the environment. Learn about the monarch's life history, its impacts on our food, and its role as an ambassador for nature conservation. [REGISTER](#)



River Herring Conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Tuesday, June 22 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mathew Ogburn, Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

Dr. Mathew Ogburn, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center Senior Scientist, will share the amazing life history of river herring! Each spring, millions of river herring swim from the ocean to spawn in streams throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. While that sounds like a lot of fish, their current numbers are only a small fraction of the vast populations that used to arrive annually. Come learn about the incredible river herring, what we know about their history in the Chesapeake Bay, and the technology that's helping us figure out how to bring more of them back. [REGISTER](#)

Travel Virtually to Witness the Wildlife and Ecology of Costa Rica

Tuesday, July 6 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Mark Garland, ANS Bartsch Award winner and Naturalist

Join Birder, Naturalist and adventurer Mark Garland in an adventure through Costa Rica, a small Central American nation that's home to a staggering diversity of tropical habitats and wildlife. Its richness and beauty have made it a destination for ANS travel programs since 1988. This interactive talk features some of the habitats and wildlife that travelers to this safe and hospitable country can experience. [REGISTER](#)

Join us for future AND past Naturalist Hours!



You can now purchase recorded programs. Just scroll to the bottom of the [Naturalist Hour registration page](#) to purchase packages by month. And watch for future programs to be listed in mid-June.



Natural History Field Studies

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

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, classes are currently being offered via online Zoom sessions with optional in-person field trips. These locally-based field outings will be limited to groups of 8 participants, with social distancing required (see page 14 for our Covid policy). Registrants can elect to enroll in online classes only, or choose to participate in field trips as well, space permitting. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit ANShome.org/nhfs.

Summer Tree Identification

NATH7148, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: June 14 - August 16

Field trip dates: 1. Patuxent River Park – Jug Bay Natural Area, Group A: June 19, Group B: July 3; 2. Little Bennett Regional Park, Group A: July 17, Group B: July 24; 3. Sugarloaf Mountain, Group A: August 7, Group B: August 14

Location: Online via Zoom

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

Online lectures + 2 field trips: members \$300; nonmembers \$330

Instructor: Bradley Simpson

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

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. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled. Field trip groups will be chosen during the first class. Registration closes June 11.



Photo by Serenella Linares

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.

Insect Life

NATH7130, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: June 15-August 17

Field trip dates: 1. Daytime insects, Woodend (9 am-12 pm) - Group A June 26, Group B June 27; 2. Night time insects, Patuxent Park (7-10 pm) - Group A July 30, Group B July 31

Location: Online via Zoom

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

Online lectures + 2 field trips: members \$300; nonmembers \$330

Instructor: Cathy Stragar

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Delve into the world of the tiny but often overlooked animals that run the world. Learn to identify insects to the order level and discover their roles in the balance of nature. Study their life histories, the ecologies of important insect forms, the necessity of insects in biotic communities and principal insect families of the Central Atlantic region. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled. Field trip groups will be chosen during the first class. Registration closes June 11.

Photo by Serenella Linares



Summer Bird Life

NATH7116, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: July 22-August 12

Field trip dates: Group A July 31, Group B August 1

Location TBA

Location: Online via zoom

Online lectures only: members \$150; nonmembers \$180

Online lectures + 1 field trip: members \$190; nonmembers \$220

Instructor: Gemma Radko

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Bird activity is especially busy in the summer, with courting, nesting, and fledging happening in the space of a few short months. Learn about local summer birds and their breeding strategies, nests and nestlings, habitat requirements, and much more. We will discuss the current state-wide atlas, and what we can learn from atlasing activities. A field trip to a local park will help participants learn to identify local nesters, their nests, and young birds. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled. Field trip groups will be chosen during the first class. Registration closes July 16.



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.

Adults and Nature Photos



ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason and participants stop their bikes to ID a bird during the "Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac" field trip on the Towpath along the Potomac River. Birds seen included a Baltimore oriole, pileated woodpecker, bald eagle, black vulture, and numerous great blue herons. Photo by Ben Israel.



Students from Spring Wildflower class practice their identification skills in the field with instructor Clare Walker. Picture Taken at Carderock (Billy Goat Trail – Section C) by Serenella Linares.



Participants in the "Big Sit" event count the different bird species they see or hear at Woodend Sanctuary on the morning of May 4 in support of ANS' 41st Bloomin' Birdathon, one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. Photo by Ben Israel.



Tykee James, DC resident and leader of the Black Birder movement, leads a birding trip in Malcolm X Park, in Washington, D.C. in early May. Photo by Ben Israel.

Partner Profile



Housing and the Environment: Habitat for Humans

by Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

What do environmental advocates need to know about housing? It turns out the answer is quite a lot. At ANS, we have been educating ourselves about the ways that housing needs, development plans, affordability, and transit intersect with how we conserve nature close to home and farther away. We recently interviewed two thought leaders in our suburban regions and are excited to share what they had to say. In a future NQ, we'll cover housing and environment issues in Washington, DC. The interviews below were condensed and lightly edited for clarity.

Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Planning Commissioner, Montgomery County. Commissioner Fani-Gonzalez is the Vice-Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, where she has served since 2014. She was a keynote speaker at ANS's 2020 Naturally Latinos Conference.

ANS: Why is the Planning Board's work on housing important for the environment?

NFG: Our work to create more opportunities for duplexes, triplexes, and apartment buildings is extremely important. Most of the housing in the county is single-family homes, and that's a problem especially when we talk about the environment. You want more people to live in a certain amount of space, especially near transit. The reality cannot just be building more single-family homes. People are used to living in a certain way – a house with half an acre, a little fence, etc. The times have changed, and we need to change.

ANS: What would it take for Montgomery County to find a balance between more affordable & attainable housing while protecting our natural resources?

NFG: We really need to focus on climate action. If you really want to take care of the environment, we need to be strategic about where we place and house people. We need to be mindful about creating green infrastructure, green spaces, for people to feel healthy and welcome. People are a species -- all species are important and all need to be welcomed. This is not just about more affordable housing, but also about access to nature and creating lifestyles that embrace climate action. We need bike lanes, public transit, and sidewalks so people can walk. We need to embrace that idea and put money behind it.



Mary Paden, Chair, South County Task Force & Chair, Fairfax County NAACP Housing Committee. ANS has partnered with Mary Paden since 2015 to support equitable, green redevelopment along the Route 1 Corridor in Fairfax County.

ANS: We hear a lot about how our region has an affordable housing crisis, and a housing crisis overall. What does that look like along the Route 1 Corridor?

MP: Along Route 1, some residents live in committed affordable housing buildings - well maintained, with rent set at a percent of income, and occupancy caps to prevent overcrowding. But others live in older buildings that have been poorly maintained and are "market-rate" affordable housing because they are older and don't have amenities. But even that, people can barely afford. Plus those rents are rising as developers buy up land along Route 1.



ANS: The goal of the Route 1 Corridor redevelopment (called "Embark") is to plan for Bus Rapid Transit and Metro, and to build more housing around the future transit hubs. How will that affect existing residents?

MP: The Embark planners didn't ask current residents, especially renters, what they really wanted. There are many changes residents do want – better schools and services, improved access to parks and green spaces, safe pedestrian corridors. (Route 1 has the highest pedestrian fatality rates in Fairfax.) Current residents want things that any community would want. But Embark planners are focused on creating new communities while ignoring the no-car families who already live there! These folks walk and use public transit. They are climate friendly residents. But they are now scared that they are going to lose local businesses and affordable housing. More density should result in lower priced housing, but because new construction is expensive, the prices in even relatively affordable new units will be higher than in older buildings.

ANS: If people get displaced from the corridor, how does that affect them and the environment?

MP: Without affordable housing options, residents may overcrowd to stay in Fairfax because of its superior school services, which is a top priority for immigrant families. People will live in broom closets, sacrifice their own health and welfare for the sake of their children's education. Or they will move further down Route 1 into Prince William County, where they can find cheaper housing. People moving out of Fairfax will contribute to sprawl that eats up green space and forces people into polluting cars for commuting. Or if they can't afford a car, a much longer bus commute will mean more time away from their families. And when people move away, they give up their community. They lose their connections with their babysitters, churches, beauty salons, doctors. So that's the price low-income residents and the environment will pay if we don't retain affordable housing.

Stream Science

VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

ANS volunteer water quality monitoring teams conducted biological, chemical and physical stream assessments in winter and spring. **We are now ready to take new volunteers into the program following current Covid guidance.** Please contact cleanstreams@anshome.org for more information, and sign up for the first class in our Stream Science series (Healthy Stream Biology: An introduction to monitoring and non-insect macroinvertebrates). Visit <https://anshome.org/stream-science-classes/> to register.

STREAM SCIENCE CLASSES

ANS is thrilled to announce that we have created and made available online our series of stream science classes. Learn aquatic macroinvertebrate identification to the family level. The classes are geared toward our volunteer program but would also be well suited to anyone else who wants to learn about the amazing animals that live in streams!

The classes are recorded and self-paced, and taught by our long-time instructor and former program coordinator, Cathy Wiss. Each class runs 45–70 minutes and includes extensive photos and videos collected by our own monitoring volunteers and staff, plus recommended videos from other sources. Visit <https://anshome.org/stream-science-classes/> to register.

Check out our stream data at:

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

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



Kevin Misener monitoring at Great Seneca Creek in April 2021.
Photo by Deby Sarabia-President, Seneca Creek Watershed Partners.



CREEK CRITTERS®

Looking for an outdoor activity for yourself, family and friends? Head to a local stream, find and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates, learn what the critters tell you about the health of the stream and submit your findings. ANS's free CREEK CRITTERS® app will guide you! Visit <https://anshome.org/creek-critters/> for more information. Don't forget to check out @anscreekcritters on Instagram!

DC BACTERIA MONITORING: Volunteer Opportunity

ANS has kicked off our third year participating in the DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. The project is funded by DC Department of Energy and Environment and led by Anacostia Riverkeeper. ANS is now working to deploy volunteers to test 7 sites along or draining into the Potomac River for *E.coli*, a fecal contamination indicator. Our data will help residents and the city know when it's safe to recreate on the water (although swimming is illegal in all DC waters). **Join us! Monitoring takes place on Wednesday mornings, or Thursdays in case of rain.**

Email monitor@anacostiariverkeeper.org to volunteer.



Testing for turbidity. Photo by Camila Fishtahler.



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety

Feature Photos



The Tufted Titmouse is a common backyard bird, but its beauty is anything but common! Photo by Jane Gamble.



Four and five-years olds in the Forest Friends class have been observing cicada exits holes in the ground. They were thrilled when cicadas began to emerge! Photo by Amelia McLaughlin.



Did you know? The Prothonotary Warbler is the only warbler in the eastern U.S. that nests in cavities. Bright yellow, with a beady black eye and blue-gray wings, Prothonotary Warblers can usually be reliably seen and heard along parts of the C&O Canal in spring. Photo by Jane Gamble.

The Wonder of Worms

by Frank Sanford, ANS Volunteer

Nathan Harrington, an ANS Master Naturalist and Director of Ward 8 Woods, invited ANS volunteers Frank Sanford and Kate Grinberg, and Brenda Richardson of Friends of Oxon Run Park to create a worms exploration program. Fifteen children and their parents joined us in investigating the structure and function of worms in our environment. We divided into two small groups - one group learned about the anatomy of worms using a field microscope and hand lenses, while the other group went into the local woodland to dig for and observe worms in their native habitat.



Just like the pied piper, ANS Volunteer Frank Sanford leads adventurous families on a hike to the woods to dig for worms.



ANS Volunteer Kate Grinberg captures the attention of youngsters by explaining that worms have five hearts!



Family teams explore worms up close using hand lenses.

Volunteer Corner

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

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

Oh, how they make our gardens grow! A tribute to ANS's Garden Stewards who worked through the pandemic to restore beauty and wildlife benefits

Audubon Naturalist Society's (ANS) Garden Stewards care for the native plant gardens at our headquarters, Woodend Nature Sanctuary. Gardens under their stewardship inspire people from around the region to love nature and garden for wildlife.

Our garden stewards began in the Blair Native Plant Garden at Woodend. Named in memory of past ANS President William Blair Jr., the Blair Garden demonstrates that native plant gardening can be both beautiful and beneficial to wildlife. It now attracts dozens of species of butterflies as well as human visitors who regularly exclaim, "how beautiful!" and "I come here just to sit on this bench and admire." The success of the Blair Garden stewards led us to expand demonstration gardens throughout our nature sanctuary.

By January 2020, the Garden stewards had grown from 17 to 57 members! Under the guidance of Jenny Brown, ANS Garden Outreach Associate and Master Gardener, the group's responsibilities grew. In 2020, our Garden stewards oversaw nine gardens. One of those gardens, The Learning Garden, is a demonstration garden used by preschool, elementary and middle school students. In a non-pandemic year, nearly 1,000 children participated in hands-on garden

activities. The "oohs" and "ahs" (and a few "ews" and "ughs!") of engaged students are part of the symphony of sounds regularly heard at Woodend.

Between January and March 2020, our garden stewards donated 155 hours; lovingly preparing seeds for planting in spring, cleaning tools, clearing planting beds, and more. By March 11, wildflowers were emerging, field trips were scheduled, plans were underway for a banner year. And then...

We shut down. From March 12 through July 20, ANS cancelled volunteer activities. The birds and insects sang but were not answered by that chorus of "oohs" and "ahs." The beloved gardens continued to grow but no weeds were pulled. Because Woodend is free and open to the public, many people visited the gardens to escape shutdown. Wear and tear took a toll. Weeds thrived. Our garden stewards huddled, isolated, missing their work. "I'm scared, but I want to come back and help. What can I do?" was the common email refrain our Volunteer Coordinator received. And then...

The garden stewards were invited back. Twice a week, for 90 minutes, they dove into work and gave an additional 372 hours of service. We held our first Native Plant Sale with plants volunteers collected from Woodend. They even created a native plant nursery to grow plants for future sales. Moreover, Woodend's late summer gardens delighted visitors of all ages.

Not all volunteer magic involved making things grow. Ecologically harmful plant species flourished during the shutdown, and our garden stewards met the challenge. Bush honeysuckle, privet, wineberry, barberry, and stiltgrass were no match for the energy reserves of newly released volunteer weed warriors. With exclamations of, "I find Zen in weeding," they removed an inestimable weight of invasive plants from our gardens and forest. By October, Woodend had blossomed again. And then...

We learned that a cherished and long-time Garden Steward, Helen Patton, suffered a fatal stroke. Her loss was felt by everyone, perhaps especially by Garden Outreach Associate Jenny Brown who grew up across the street from Helen in Silver Spring.

With Helen in their hearts, our volunteers set about their winter work once again. They reclaimed long-abandoned areas from invasive plants and created new garden beds. They redesigned and improved our compost demonstration area. Now the memory of Helen's joyful volunteer service reminds us all that energy spent planting, tending, watering and growing creates new growth that blossoms and produces seeds for the future.



ANS Garden Stewards help in the Learning Garden during the pandemic. Photo by Jenny Brown.



The late Helen Patton.



Woodend Nature Sanctuary - Pet-free for a Reason

During the pandemic, Woodend Nature Sanctuary has received so many new and returning visitors. All of us at Audubon Naturalist Society are delighted to see a growing number of people connect with nature. But we have also noticed an uptick in dogs on the property. We want to remind everyone that Woodend is pet-free for a reason.

As our region experiences a surge in development, the number of green spaces where wildlife can rest, refuel and raise their young is diminishing at a rapid rate. Experts at Connecticut College, home to one of the longest breeding bird surveys in the nation (83 years of data!), fear that habitat fragmentation will cause more harm to migratory birds than climate change will ever do. And a National Park Service study on the effects of dogs on wildlife communities showed that the presence of dogs along recreational trails correlated with reduced habitat utilization by species of small mammals.

So places where wildlife can breed, feed and survive in our region without stressors are more important than ever in our rapidly urbanizing region. Especially inside the busy Capital Beltway, there are few spaces that are reserved exclusively for wildlife. And we are proud to count Woodend Nature Sanctuary as a haven for wildlife. We welcome human visitors to Woodend, but please leave your pet pups at home.

P.S. Good news for dog and nature lovers - our 68-acre Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, Virginia does welcome dogs on property.



The Plants of Woodend: Eastern Prickly Pear

This summer, stop by the Blair Native Plant garden to visit one of the more surprising native plants in Maryland. While cacti are more often associated with desert environments out West, the eastern prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*) is native to Maryland and can be found in both coastal plain and mountain habitats where sandy or gravelly soils drain quickly. The fleshy paddles of this species wilt to the ground in the winter, looking for all the world like the plant has surely perished. But come May the bright green succulent paddles seems to inflate overnight. Large, bright yellow flowers bloom in profusion in June and July, followed by purple fruits that are both showy and edible. Try this show-stopper in your garden if you have full sun and well-drained soil.



Photo by Ben Israel



Over the next few months, we will be upgrading our databases to a more sophisticated data management system.

As such, there may be delays in the delivery of thank you letters and in response time to requests about membership status, tax receipts, and other inquiries during the months of June and July.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and patience during this transition. We are confident that our new system will enable us to provide more streamlined services to ANS members and supporters going forward.

Thank you so much!



A True Nature for All Welcome! As part of our intentional effort to make our headquarters more accessible to all visitors, we are proud to announce the installation of a new, push button entry at the doorway on the south side of the main building. Stay tuned for news on the reopening of our buildings and the grand opening of our accessible nature trail at Woodend.

Volunteer Opportunity to serve on ANS Board of Directors and

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

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 Jacky.Wershbaile@anshome.org.



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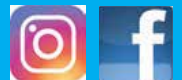
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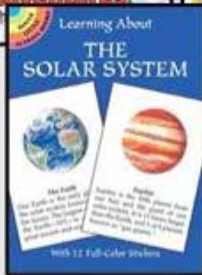
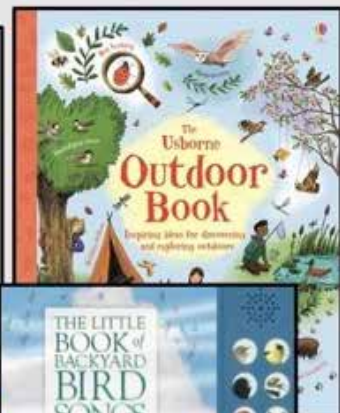
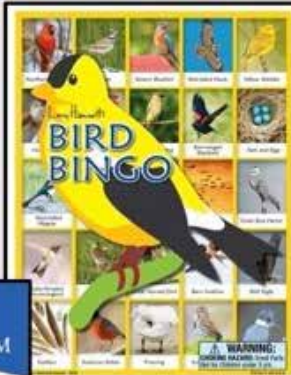
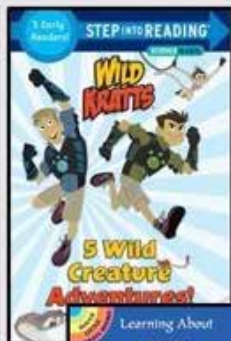


**Nurture a child's
natural curiosity!**



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

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



Restoration

Green Infrastructure Transforms Woodend

ANS has made tremendous progress this year toward our goal of treating 100% of stormwater at Woodend before it leaves the property. With generous funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, ANS has replaced the impervious pavement in the parking lots adjacent to our headquarters building with attractive and clean water-friendly permeable pavers. Now, rather than contributing to stormwater pollution, our parking areas will filter the runoff from 8,000 square feet of roof and parking lots. Permeable pavers are one of many stormwater practices called **green infrastructure** that treat stormwater at the source and reduce the amount of runoff and pollution entering local streams including Rock Creek. With this retrofit, stormwater will soak into a gravel layer below the permeable pavers and slowly make its way to groundwater. With increasingly large storm events due to climate change, any overflow that cannot be fully absorbed by the gravel layer will flow toward our meadow and forest where it can slow down, spread out, soak in and recharge the groundwater.

Speaking of the Woodend stream, this spring, its heavily eroded banks were stabilized with another green infrastructure practice, a stream restoration technique called a **regenerative stormwater conveyance**. What was a deeply eroded canyon has been replaced with 44 **step pools** that transport water through the stream channel more slowly, while providing better habitat for amphibians, aquatic insects and birds. Most importantly, sediment and pollutants are no longer pouring through the Woodend stream to Rock Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. The entire area along the stream banks is currently being planted with 370 native trees, 800 native shrubs, and about 10,000 native herbaceous plants to restore a native riparian forest understory. We have already noted promising signs of thriving wildlife from frog eggs to spotted salamanders and the return of native plants like bloodwort and trout lily. Stay tuned for more information about these “Nature for All” projects, including the completion of our wheelchair-accessible trail in the fall issue!



Permeable pavers treat and absorb stormwater outside ANS headquarters.



Bradley Simpson, ANS Restoration Manager, presides over our stream restoration step pools. They were completed just in time for the annual mating of spotted salamanders.



We observed bloodroot in bloom in the Woodend forest this spring for the first time since deer exclusion.

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

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

What you have provided to us is an AMAZING roadmap to "going native" in our yard! I think it is worth ten times what you are charging!
- ANS Member



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

ANS Garden Consultations

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



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

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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.

Lola Oberman

Many ANS members will remember Lola's "Notes from Melody Lane" - a wry and informative column on birds and bird behavior. In fact, many of these columns were included in her books *The Pleasures of Watching Birds*, and *Dial "B" for Birder: The Private Files of a Real-life Bird Detective*. Lola's passion for birding spurred her to become involved with ANS and assume several leadership positions with the organization. In 1997, ANS awarded her its highest honor, the Paul Bartsch Award, for her contributions to natural history education and conservation. We are deeply grateful to Lola for her generous bequest to ANS which will directly support our environmental education and conservation programs.

John Giovannelli

Hailing from New South Wales in Australia, John received his PhD in plant sciences from the University of California, Berkeley, and a postdoctoral fellowship from The Johns Hopkins University and spent most of his career at the National Institutes of Health. John and his late wife, Martha, were active members of ANS since the early 1990's participating in many of the organization's programs and classes. We are grateful to John for his generous legacy gift which will do so much to support our education and conservation work.

Susannah Prindle

Susannah (or Sue as she was known to her ANS family) was a member of ANS for almost 40 years participating in many classes and programs and traveling extensively with the ANS Nature Travel Program. Sue had particular interest in the advocacy work of ANS as well as the Crowder Messersmith program. An active volunteer for many years, Sue's passion for preserving our region's natural areas continues today through her wonderful legacy gift to ANS.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Louise Lees

Louise was an active member of ANS for over 30 years. She enjoyed all aspects of natural history but particularly birding. Louise loved to volunteer with ANS and to travel with ANS with her late husband, Bruce. We are grateful to Louise for her longstanding support of our GreenKids program and send our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

John Williamson

A noted economist, John joined ANS in the 1970's following his move from the UK to Washington, DC to work with the World Bank and other institutions. Always an avid birder, John recorded more than 1,000 species on his life list. John was a volunteer leader for ANS's Beginner Bird Walks and traveled extensively with ANS with our Nature Travel Program. We send our sympathies to John's family and friends.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.



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Your Opinion Counts! Calling on ANS members and friends for important feedback.

As we emerge from the pandemic, Audubon Naturalist Society is undertaking some important initiatives. We want to hear your opinion about the future of interpretation at Woodend Nature Sanctuary and about the prospect of changing the name of our organization. Please visit the links below to let us hear from you!

Woodend Nature Sanctuary Feedback

If you have had a chance to visit Woodend Nature Sanctuary lately, you have seen that our Nature for All restoration projects are coming together beautifully. Stream restoration is complete, the wheelchair accessible nature trail is underway, and our Nature Play Space is on the horizon. Part of Nature for All will include new interpretive signs throughout Woodend. Please complete this survey (follow the URL or scan the QR code) to help us plan for the content of those signs.

<https://forms.office.com/r/1kLNScuuJM>



Name Change Feedback

In our Fall 2020 Naturalist Quarterly, ANS President Nancy Pielemeier wrote an article called *John James Audubon: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly, the Future*. Nancy highlighted the great progress ANS has made toward our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility strategic goals. And she outlined the unsavory, racist history of John James Audubon the man (1785 – 1851). The ANS Board has appointed a Name Task Force comprised of Board members, staff members, ANS members and community partners to consider the pros and cons of an organizational name change at this time. The Task Force will make a recommendation to the Board about our name in September 2021 and they need to hear from you! Please answer the question (follow the URL or scan the QR code) and let the Name Task Force hear your opinion!

<https://forms.office.com/r/VWKiyLSzFA>

