

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

# Naturalist Quarterly

Spring 2021

AN\$HOME.ORG



Our Favorite Things about Spring

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.

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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

Student \$15

Individual \$50

Family \$65

Nature Steward \$100

Audubon Advocate \$200

Sanctuary Guardian \$500

Naturalists Council \$1,000

Preservationist \$1,000+

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

ISSN 0888-6555

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ANShome.org Spring 2021

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**COVER** Editor's note - The Naturalist Quarterly is proud to be the first publication to showcase photos from Wildlife Photographer David Greaves, who is also the first photographer to exhibit at the Taking Nature Black Conference. Enjoy his presentation Saturday, February 27. Learn more at [www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black](http://www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black)

This Bald Eagle's (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) photo was taken at the Elk Neck State Park in Northeast Maryland. A fun fact about the Bald Eagle is that they build the largest nests of any North American birds. Some Bald Eagle nests can weigh as much as 2000 pounds!



## From the Director

### A Slow Rise

It's hard to believe that we have now spent an entire year fighting the pandemic and so much more. Over the past twelve months, all of us have been called to action to keep our communities healthy, defend Black lives, demand social and environmental justice, restore good government and preserve democracy in our nation. You, our wonderful members and supporters, have been the lifeblood that has kept ANS going strong as we reinvent the ways we work, teach and learn in these challenging times.



ANS's first All Staff Meeting of the new year happened just one day after the insurrection at the Capitol. I wondered what I could say to our talented, hardworking staff to bolster their spirits in the face of harrowing events taking place just a few short miles from ANS headquarters. Ultimately, I told the staff, "I think 2021 will be like a good loaf of bread. It will take a long, slow rise, but things will turn out all right." And I firmly believe that conditions will improve for people and the nature under the new administration.

We're seeing that slow rise happening now, with the U.S. rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and reinstating environmental protections through Executive Orders. We're celebrating landmark appointments including Representative Deb Haaland to head the Interior Department as the first Native American cabinet secretary and Michael Regan as the first Black man to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

We're looking forward to federal agency and legislative priorities that safeguard wildlife, restore clean water and clean air protections, focus on sustainable energy and bring back the full power of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act while adding additional strength through a new Migratory Bird Protection Act. If Rachel Carson enjoys a celestial perch, I imagine her smiling down at these positive changes on the federal stage.

And our impact here at the regional and local level continues unmatched. I know you'll enjoy reading about all the positive energy generated by our 4th Taking Nature Black Conference (see page 7). Our advocates are inspiring Virginia members and supporters to take action for the environment in local government (see page 28). We're championing tougher Montgomery County Forest Conservation Laws and a stronger Clean Water Act stormwater permit for Maryland, while fighting against the ill-conceived widening of I 495/I 270. In DC, we're watchdogging Washington Gas to ensure that it completes a full transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy and gets rid of explosive, dangerous gas pipes in our homes. And our educators are ensuring that all children in our region stay connected to nature, even when Zoom school rules the day.

So, as we settle into the work of 2021, let's focus on being part of the slow rise to better days. Thank you for all the ways you have supported our mission work – by believing in the power of science, participating in programs, giving generously, renewing your membership, taking advocacy actions, volunteering and just checking in to see how staff are holding up.

And because we all need to take time to rest and recharge, this issue of the Naturalist Quarterly issue is chock full of opportunities to enjoy the restorative wonders of nature and spring in Washington. Check

out Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason's Spring Fever feature on page 4, followed by new Adult Program Director Serenella Linares' take on her favorite things about spring, Jenny Brown's Woodend Plant notes on page 29, fascinating Conservation Cafés on page 9 and sign up to be a bird counter or supporter for this spring's annual and always enjoyable Bloomin' Birdathon (page 32). As Amanda Gorman's poem so eloquently said at the Presidential Inauguration:

We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west,  
we will rise from the windswept northeast  
where our forefathers first realized revolution  
We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states,  
we will rise from the sunbaked south  
We will rebuild, reconcile and recover  
and every known nook of our nation and  
every corner called our country,  
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge.

Here's to vaccines, time spent in nature and a slow rise to a bright future ahead.

## LETTERS

### Children's Programs Valuable during Covid

I am truly grateful that you and your team are persisting through this difficult time while trying to adapt to COVID times. I'm an educator myself (at the college level) and I know how hard it can be to try to design for uncertain times. You provide such a valuable service to the community. Don't stop. Excited to bring our child to your door step.

Clare F.

### ANS Makes a Lasting Impact on Member

The ANS course that changed the way I perceive the world around us was Summer Bird Life over 20 years ago. My husband and I took that course and we learned a lot of bird physical IDs but more importantly we learned about birding by ear. So to this day, it has helped us ID birds by sound whatever we are doing, whether biking on the C&O, hiking or kayaking in the DC area and many other outdoor activities. It's like a 6th sense. So just writing to say in these tough times that I really appreciate the ANS!

Josephine C.

### Nature Walk a Breath of Fresh Air

Thanks so much for leading our walk at Carderock yesterday, The weather, the fresh air, the animals and plants (and lichens!), and the company of fellow nature-lovers made the walk simply exhilarating. When I got home yesterday, I felt about ten years younger.

Carol Anne H.

# Our Favorite Things about Spring: Spring Fever

by Stephanie Mason, Senior Naturalist

Asked to pen a piece on my favorite “spring things,” my first thought was “How can you ask a naturalist to choose between the wondrous sights and sounds of this season?”

Pondering this, I realized that my favorite thing about spring is the anticipation of its arrival. I love how it builds from a few subtle signs in January to the accelerating pace of seasonal changes in March to the great explosion of new life and growth in April and May. During pandemic uncertainty and isolation, intensified by political discord and violence, I’m finding comfort and energy from nature’s familiar rhythms and cycles. As Rachel Carson writes in *Silent Spring* “There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

Once a new year begins and hours of daylight wax, it takes only a few warm days to stir up the scent of wet soil before I catch a case of spring fever. You, too? Signs that the seasonal wheel of life is turning are observable as soon as the calendar is flipped. Louis J. Halle notes these “first sparks of spring” in his beloved *Spring in Washington*. In January 1945 against the backdrop of World War II, this bird-loving State Department employee sets out by bike and on foot to monitor the progress of spring and ponder the state of humanity. My own well-thumbed copy, bound by a rubber band, rides in my backpack from January through May so I can share Halle’s lovely, sometimes provocative, prose during field trips.



Spring Peeper



Virginia Bluebells by Stephanie Mason

In January, Bald Eagles restore pair bonds and add sticks to their perennial nests. Before the month ends, Great Horned Owls are sitting on eggs. Tufted Titmice, Song Sparrows, and scarlet Cardinals start singing in my Takoma Park yard. This confirms Halle’s observation that “before the end of January, while the scenery remains desolate and the sun leaves no warmth, the first sparks (of spring) are already being enkindled in the breasts of songbirds.” On lakes and rivers, overwintering Hooded

Merganser drakes wave their showy crests as they court the hens. Resident Mallards start to pair up, using head-bobbing and whistles to secure a mate. The odd flowers of Skunk Cabbage bloom, often nosing their way up through a crust of ice in boggy habitats. A Red Fox in its thick prime coat struts through Woodend’s meadow as its breeding season begins.

February arrives as *coo-ing* Mourning Doves are nesting. More resident birds are tuning up, including White-breasted Nuthatches. Halle writes on February 9: “the nuthatches were laughing vociferously, this being their own version of a spring song, and throughout the midday a mockingbird sat in a holly tree outside the Department of the Interior and improvised.” Female Gray Squirrels nurse their first litter of the year. As the month unwinds, leaf buds of Silver Maples and Red Maples swell, giving a reddish hue to the landscape where they grow. Before the month is out, our region’s largest freezable frogs hop to shallow pools created by snowmelt or rain. Wood Frogs, having sheltered away from water—their bodies nearly 60 percent frozen, hold noisy breeding parties even with snow on the ground.

Despite winter’s dalliance, it is March when the drama of spring awakening gets noisier and more colorful around here. As Halle observes on March 1: “Every morning now is a fresh wonder.” At our latitude, the hours of daylight increase by 2.5 minutes each day.

Lengthening daylight is a key catalyst for hormonal changes in animals and is “read” by woody plants as well. Astronomical spring in the Northern Hemisphere arrives on March 20. To put it bluntly, the vernal equinox signals the start of the high season of sex and gluttony in the natural world in our region.

March’s script calls for Osprey, Eastern Phoebes, Tree Swallows, and Pine Warblers to return to this area to breed – and for most of the wintering waterfowl to depart. American Woodcock, the earliest shorebird returnees, invite those of us with severe cases of spring fever to sit on icy ground to watch the male’s sky-dance display. Tiny Spring Peeper frogs thaw out and gather in ringing choruses to pass on their genes. Elms, Spicebush and Violets bloom. Dandelions pop up wherever they can. Early (and hungry) butterflies such as the Mourning Cloak fly to oozing sapsucker wells, while small Miner Bees arise from their underground chambers. The first spring ephemerals—Harbinger of Spring, Hepatica, Bloodroot, Early Saxifrage, and Spring Beauty—start unfolding leaves and petals in the race to complete their life cycle before the forest canopy fills in.

Despite late snowfalls and teasing temperature swings—what I call March Madness—the unfolding of spring moves steadily onward to April and May. Then spring breaks loose and a nature lover is left breathless. Good luck deciding whether to look up at the glowing Baltimore Oriole – or down at the regal Trout Lillies.

April’s warming calls up dazzling displays of Virginia Bluebells, Toadshade, Golden Ragwort, and Mayapple. This warming stirs up insect life as well. Look for the darting flight of Zebra Swallowtails wherever there is Pawpaw and feeding Queen Bumblebees where Dutchmen’s Breeches grow. This year, a great insect spectacle will start in late April or early May when warming soils prompt Brood X periodical cicadas to emerge from 17 years of subterranean existence. As the month passes, reptiles awaken. Painted Turtles bask on sunlit logs in ponds, while Five-lined Skinks and Fence Lizards skitter over solar-collecting rocks.

Spring’s show-stopping shrubs and trees burst into bloom: think Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, Shadbush, and Pinxter Flower Azalea. And of course, there are the feathered wonders returning to or just passing through our region in ever greater

numbers during April. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Northern Parula warblers arrive early. They are followed by many species that spend most of the year in tropical habitats but take annual (and perilous) journeys north to breed. Listen for the amusing *meow* of yard-loving Gray Catbirds and the ethereal fluting voice of forest-loving Wood Thrushes, both returning to the DMV by late this month.

In May, more species of birds arrive or pass through as avian residents tend to their early clutches. Scarlet Tanagers, Indigo Buntings, and other showy-plumaged birds become hard to spot as leaves begin to obscure them. Thus, this month birding-by-ear becomes the *modus operandi*. Wild Blue Phlox lines the C&O Canal waterway, where you may be lucky enough to spot a Wood Duck with her ducklings or even a baby fox. Green Herons have joined the Great Blue Herons in fishing the Canal’s waters. By the middle of the month, songbird migration starts winding down and our metro-area’s spring flowers begin to fade. But you can still chase spring by moving up in elevation. Nothing can be finer than a late-May day in our nearby mountains, even if you know summer is at hand down here near sea-level.

Whether you’re a nature newbie, an exercise walker, a passionate naturalist, or a porch-stoop observer, nature delivers boundless beauty, mystery, surprise, and solace during our spring months. And there isn’t a better place to chase and embrace this season than here in the mid-Atlantic.

So, unhook those tethers to technology and the workaday world. Halle would exhort you now to take leave of the “hive,” and start paying attention. Plan and make an escape to “*the real world of nature.*” Watch and listen for nature’s news of the day – and prepare for wonderment. He writes, “*Thus spring, however closely you watch for it, comes as a succession of surprises. You stand guard all day and see nothing; then overnight you find the bare trees have budded and a myriad new birds have arrived.*”

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*Check out the many ways you can experience the wonders of spring in and around the DMV through our nature education activities for adults—including classes, in-person field trips, and virtual presentations—on pages 14-21.*



*Pine Warbler by Bridget Lewis*



# Our Favorite Things about Spring: A Multilayered Explosion of Life

by Serenella Linares, Director of Adult Education

Spring is a gorgeous time to explore nature. Everywhere you look there is something to see. Whether in the air, the water, or the soil, something is bound to catch the attention of a nature observer. Birds are flying in from their winter homes, eager to build their nests and lay their eggs. Salamanders deposit their eggs in nearby ponds, wildflowers pop out of the ground with their ephemeral beauty, and mushrooms start to wake up from their winter slumber. I particularly enjoy getting out of the house with the first rays of sunshine, while delicate frost crystals still cover the blades of grass on my lawn.

Right at my feet, bursting out of dead wood, I will find the fairy ink cap, a coprinoid mushroom that is common in our area. When young it appears white, but as the mushroom matures, the gills turn black and give the cap a greyish appearance. In some members of this mushroom family, the black gills turn to black goo – a process called deliquescence that spreads spores as the goo falls to the ground. Many other mushrooms of the same family will pop up on patches of mulch and their caps will completely dissolve, leaving behind just the stalk, which puzzles passersby. Finding a stump to visit in your neighborhood will ensure that spring is magical, because there you will find all sorts of fungi, like the sizable deer mushroom with its greyish tan colored cap and slightly pink gills. If you are heading outdoors up to a day after a good rain, you might be one of the lucky ones to find Witch's Butter in the forest. With its asymmetrical folds, and its translucent yellow lobes, it is a fantastic opportunity to tap into your inner child's sense of wonder.

And mushrooms provide an irresistible dining table for invertebrates. On any given spring day, you can find slugs and beetles, and even spiders hiding under mushroom caps. The spiders are there as opportunists, hiding where their prey come to dine, saving some precious calories that otherwise would have been invested in a hunt. Why run after your prey when you can calmly sit and wait for it to come to you? The next time the spring sun comes out, head out to your nearest patch of outdoors to slow down, observe the layers, and find your own favorite things about spring's explosion of life.



*Eastern blue bird (Sialia sialis) nest found inside nesting box at Woodend Sanctuary. Picture by Serenella Linares.*



*Virginia spring beauty (Claytonia virginica L.) photographed at Rock Creek Park by Serenella Linares.*



*Fairy inkcap mushroom (Coprinellus disseminatus) found at Woodend Sanctuary by Serenella Linares.*



Join us for a follow up to 2021 Taking Nature Black Conference and meet the **Taking Nature Black 2021 Environmental Champions** on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 7 p.m. You'll be introduced to each Champion through a beautiful, short video highlighting their work and talents, and hear from them in person as well.

Come prepared to be amazed as we honor these incredible Champions, including the three pictured on the right. Learn more about these three Champions today at [www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black](http://www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black) and stay tuned for announcements about additional Champions who will be recognized. Hosted by 2021 Taking Nature Black Chairwoman Caroline Brewer and the Taking Nature Black Planning Committee. Register at [anshome.org/conservation-cafe](http://anshome.org/conservation-cafe).



Congressman A. Donald McEachin



Catherine Coleman Flowers



Derrick Evans

*Thank you to the National Wildlife Federation for being a Bronze Level/\$5,000 Sponsor for our Taking Nature Black Conference. See our other sponsors on pages 35, 36, 37 and 40.*





# Conservation



## Policy and Advocacy News

Photo by Rita Bergmann

### Regional/National

**Turning the Page on the Trump Administration:** Depending on how you count, the Trump Administration has rolled back, weakened, or attempted to roll back 80 to 100 or more environmental rules and regulations. One of the very last rollbacks finalized was one threatening the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of our nation's earliest environmental laws whose passage was critical to the founding of ANS. Fortunately many of these rollbacks are tied up in lawsuits, and the Biden Administration will make it a priority to reverse the rollbacks as soon as possible, with a focus on climate change. But an enormous amount of damage has been done and we have lost precious time in the fight against climate crisis. Together with our coalition and federal partners, ANS will support and hold accountable the Biden Administration to move as quickly as possible not only to reverse these rollbacks, but to strengthen our essential environmental laws and policies and move forward towards a vision of a safe, green, equitable, and just future for all who live in America and on the planet.

### Maryland

**MOCO Forest Conservation Act:** Montgomery County is losing its forests. ANS and our local and statewide forests allies are seeking to pass a countywide "net zero forest loss" amendment to the current forest conservation act. <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/ans-moco-forests/>

**2021 MD General Assembly:** This year's General Assembly will present many old and new challenges as we all transition from in-person gatherings and lobbying activities to virtual spaces in our homes. ANS and our statewide environmental partners will be teaming up to support environmental legislation in the 2021 session. <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/2021-maryland-general-assembly-legislative-priorities/>

### Virginia

**2021 VA General Assembly:** After a big year in 2020 with significant wins, such as the passage of the Virginia Environmental Justice Act and the Virginia Clean Economy Act, as well as Virginia's officially joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the 2021 session was incredibly short (Jan 13- Feb 27). But we had some good environmental wins along the way. <http://conservationblog.anshome.org/blog/2021-virginia-general-assembly-legislative-priorities/>



Danielle Slentz, Pinterest

### 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



## Washington, DC



**Ward 8 Water Watchers Launches:** Ward 8 Water Watchers is a collaboration between ANS and DC-based partner The Green Scheme. The Ward 8 Water Watchers program will include a series of events in 2021 aimed at building community around a shared vision for Oxon Run in Ward 8 of Washington, DC. Events will explore the intersections between water quality, food justice, environmental justice, and public health as factors that have influenced Oxon Run. We will regularly share cool nature facts, provide chances to get our hands in the water, discover wildlife in our own backyards, and participate in socially distanced outdoor educational events that feature music. It will highlight participants' expertise and the existing power of Ward 8 community members to envision long-term solutions to these challenges. Learn more: [facebook.com/W8WWDC](https://facebook.com/W8WWDC)

**ANS Partners with Beyond Gas DC to Speed Transition Away from Fossil Fuels:** ANS is working with the Sierra Club's Beyond Gas DC group to detect leaks of methane gas, also known as natural gas, around DC. The District's 2050 climate commitments mean that we can no longer continue to burn gas that is dangerous to our health and environment. Join us to learn how you can become a community scientist and fight for clean energy: [beyondgasdc.org](https://beyondgasdc.org)

## Workshops & Events

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

### Conservation Advocacy 101

**Wednesday, March 10 (1-3 pm)**  
**ANS 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. Contributing to the discussion on a new development coming to your neighborhood. Fighting climate change at the local level. Our workshop will cover the following 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.



## Virtual Conservation Cafes

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

- **Thursday, March 18: Valarie Proctor: Activism, Agriculture, Stewardship in the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians.** Valarie is a member of the Cedarville band of Piscataway Indians. Born and raised on her ancestral homelands in southern Maryland, Valarie is a farmer and student of herbalism who works to familiarize urban youth of color with the outdoor environment through farm-based and outdoor education programs. As a community organizer and indigenous environmental activist, Valarie works to weave spirituality with activism and share their traditional ways of living with those in social justice movements.
- **Thursday, April 15: Earth Month Conservation Café: Meet the Taking Nature Black 2021 Environmental Champions.** Join us for a follow up to the 2021 Taking Nature Black Conference. You'll be introduced to each one through a beautiful, short video highlighting their work and talents, and hear from them in person as well. Come prepared to be amazed, and join us in honoring these incredible Champions. Hosted by Taking Nature Black Chair Caroline Brewer, ANS Director of Communications & Marketing.
- **Thursday, May 20: William Pegues: Cooling our Cities with Real Cool Roofs!** Learn about vegetated roofs and green infrastructure and how you can advocate for them in your community with architect and engineer William Pegues.

## New Registration System

In an effort to bring more functionality to registering for conservation events, we are experimenting this Spring with using our adult program registration system. Please note your log-in credentials from Action Network will not work in the new system. Unless you have already signed up for a previous class such as a Naturalist Hour or a field trip, you will have to create a new account. We appreciate your patience! If you have any questions please email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).



# Camp Audubon

## Introducing Berry!



We are thrilled to introduce our new Camp Manager, Denis Perez (aka “Berry”), who has been working as an environmental educator with ANS for over a year already. Born and raised in Chihuahua in northern Mexico, Denis moved to Maryland in 2019. She happened to pass by ANS while driving and immediately contacted us to become a volunteer. Recognizing her many talents, we quickly hired her as staff.

Denis grew up hiking, camping and climbing with her family. Denis’s appreciation of the importance of taking care of nature intensified as she grew up in the Chihuahuan Desert in a large city with a scarce water supply. Her love for the natural world motivated her to study ecology at the Universidad Autonoma de

Chihuahua, and to pursue a master's degree in Range and Wildlife Management from Sul Ross State University in Texas.

Before coming to ANS, Denis worked on issues of migratory birds and grasslands ecology in both the United States and Mexico for organizations including Borderlands Research Institute, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Profauna.

Denis fondly remembers having environmental education lessons as a child that piqued her curiosity and inspired her love for nature, so she is happy to have the opportunity to be part of the ANS environmental education team and share her passion for nature with kids and families.

Denis chose “Berry” as her camp name because she loves to eat berries. Plus, this cute name will be easy for kids to remember. She is looking forward to a summer camp full of fun, outdoor exercise and socialization for children who are spending far too much time plugged into screens this year!

When Denis is not working, she enjoys camping, climbing, and hiking with her husband. She also loves birdwatching and photography. She recently started a new hobby, drawing and painting nature.

## Camp Audubon

Camp Audubon is currently full. We encourage you to register for the free waitlists in case we get any cancellations or are able to add more campers at a later date. Questions? Email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).



## Happy Trails Junebug!

The entire ANS team bids a fond farewell to Nora Kelly, aka “Junebug.” Nora first came to ANS as a Master Naturalist trainee and then joined the staff as Camp Director. We thank her for five years of masterful summer camp management, during which she ensured that children had joyous experiences in nature and staff had a calm and capable leader! Nora’s next career adventure will be with the Society for Science and the Public. We wish her lots of luck and hope to see her family back at ANS as campers themselves!





## Audubon Nature Preschool

### ANS Preschool Will Reopen This Fall!

During the Covid-19 pandemic, ANS made the difficult decision to close the Audubon Nature Preschool for the academic year. However, with the rollout of vaccines and our experience with managing health screening protocols, we feel confident that we can safely reopen our wonderful early childhood education programs in the fall of 2021. Enrollment is underway for daily drop-off programs, as well as for once-weekly programs for children with their caregivers. Learn more and apply at [www.anshome.org/ans-preschool](http://www.anshome.org/ans-preschool).





# Children and Nature Photos



Friends from our Unplug and Play after school program. They enjoy coming to play, connect with nature, and socialize in a safe way.





Our Woodend Wanderers program encourages children to use their imagination and explore nature. Here, our little friends were acting out a story using stuffed animals.



Our pals from the Unplug and Play program didn't miss out on the opportunity to play and build forts in the snow!

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

### Woodcock Watch

**A. Saturday, March 6 (5:15-7:30 pm)**

**B. Sunday, March 7 (5:15-7:30 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

In his Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold described the mating display of the American Woodcock as a "sky dance." Announcing its presence with nasal "peents", the male woodcock ascends high in the sky at dusk. To the accompaniment of his whistling wings, the bird circles, then plummets back to earth in a zigzag pattern, his voice issuing a liquid warble. On this field program to a natural area in upper Montgomery County, we'll hope to be lucky enough to catch a performance of this seasonal drama. *Only one session per person, please.*

### Vanishing Vernal Pools

**Sunday, March 7 (4-6:30 pm)**

**Leader: Cliff Fairweather**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

As hours of daylight lengthen and temperatures begin to rise, animals that have spent the winter in hibernation begin to stir. Among the earliest to be active are certain frogs and salamanders that use vernal or temporary pools for breeding. Unfortunately, the pools – and their breeders – are facing many threats. Our outdoor program includes an introduction to vernal pool ecology, followed by a walking visit to vernal pool habitats in the Rock Creek bottomlands near our Woodend Sanctuary.

### Late Winter Tree Walk on TRI

**Wednesday, March 10 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)**

**Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Join Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of the award-winning new book, *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island*, for a late winter tree walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island, a 90-acre island in the Potomac that serves as a fitting memorial to our conservationist and naturalist 26th president—and Audubon Naturalist Society member! We'll witness and study the winter magnificence of the island's trees and soak up the wide open vistas across the Potomac River before the trees leaf out. Of course, we'll keep our eyes open for wood ducks, great blue herons, belted kingfishers, early-returned ospreys and bald eagles. Melanie will share details of the island's fascinating history during the walking exploration of this picturesque urban oasis.

### Winter Walks Along the Canal

**Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)**

**I. March 10 – Pennyfield Lock**

**J. March 17 – Pennyfield Lock**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

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

Join our Senior Naturalist for these last two leisurely walks in our Winter Canal Walk series. We'll keep our eyes and ears open for overwintering birds and other wildlife, practice winter botany skills, and enjoy the expansive views along the Potomac River which this season provides. *NOTE: Spaces are limited so thanks for registering for only one of these walks.*

## COVID-19 Update: Adult Nature Programs

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

- Both leaders and participants are required to wear face masks and observe social distancing throughout the field trip.
- Both leaders and participants are required to complete a health questionnaire before participating in the field trip. **Please fill it out as soon as you receive it.**
- Maximum number of participants for the field trips will range from 5-8, depending on field trip location, trip focus, and leaders' preferences.



## Walking the Winter Woods and Wetlands at Governor's Bridge

**Saturday, March 13 (9 am-Noon)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Winter is often called the *quiet* season, but there is still lots to look and listen for in the natural world, especially as hours of daylight grow with spring's approach. Our Senior Naturalist leads this walk to observe overwintering (and early spring!) wildlife activity and plant life at Governor's Bridge Natural Area near Bowie, MD. We'll meander on natural surface trails for up to a couple of miles through meadow, woodland, and wetland habitats of this park aside to the Patuxent River.

## Knock, Knock

**Saturday, March 13 (9 am-12 pm)**

**Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

On this approximately 4-mile roundtrip bird walk along the Canal's Towpath from Riley's Lock, we'll focus on the 7 species of woodpeckers that frequent our woods this time of year. We'll also look and listen for any and all birds we may spy along the way. Our walk is aimed at beginning birders. *Note: this walk will go faster and farther than our usual naturalist's shuffle.*

## Late Winter Waterfowl Prowl

**Sunday, March 14 (8:30-11 am)**

**Leader: Len Bisson**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

With winter winding down—and most of the wintering ducks, geese, and other swimming birds preparing to head north to breeding grounds—we'll offer one more outing to area waterways to enjoy these sometimes showy, sometimes subtle waterfowl. Our exact location(s), relatively close to the metro area, will be determined closer to the date of the field trip, based on our leader's scouting expeditions to determine if waterbodies are open/frozen and/or easily accessible.

## March Madness at Widewater

**Friday, March 19 (9:30 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

With the official start of spring at hand, we'll return to a favorite stretch along the Potomac River where nature observers can observe the tug-of-war between lingering winter and imminent spring—what our Senior Naturalist calls March Madness! She'll lead you on a 4-mile loop hike along the C&O Canal towpath from the Widewater area upriver to Great Falls—and back. Along the way, there will be plants and animals to watch and listen for in this protected area's rocky woods, sycamore bottomlands, and flowing River waters. *NOTE: this hike will move faster and farther than our usual naturalist shuffle.*

## Beginning Birding Walk

**Saturday, March 20 (8:30-11 am)**

**Leader: Mark England**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

If you're curious about birds and bird watching but don't know where to begin, this "*how to get started*" outing is for you. No experience is required! The goal of our field morning, which visits Black Hill and Little Bennett Regional Parks in upper Montgomery County, is to develop the ability to find, study, and identify birds in their natural environment. Birding tools such as field guides, binoculars, and other resources will also be discussed.

## Spring in the Parks (8:30-11:30 am)

**A. Sunday, March 21 – Jug Bay Natural Area, MD**

**B. Friday, April 2 – Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA**

**C. Saturday, April 17 – Rachel Carson Conservation Park, MD**

**D. Sunday, April 25 – National Arboretum, DC**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

Join our Senior Naturalist for these broad-based nature hikes in four of this region's protected areas. On each outing, we'll experience the dramatic seasonal changes in the natural world ignited by spring's longer hours of daylight and warming temperatures. We'll search for showy wildflowers, the unfolding leaves of trees and shrubs, and all manner of spring wildlife activity. Be prepared to walk between 1-2.5 miles on natural surface trails which may be rocky, uneven, and/or possibly muddy/slippery. *Hikes B and C include uphill/downhill, with the steepest walking on B.*

## Spring Saunters Along the Canal

**Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)**

**Section A: March 24 - Carderock**

**Section B: March 31 - Carderock**

**Section C: April 7 - Widewater**

**Section D: April 14 - Widewater**

**Section E: April 21 - Violettes Lock**

**Section F: April 28 - Violettes Lock**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

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

Enjoy these leisurely walks on the Towpath along close-in portions of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. The focus of our walks, starting from different locations, will be general natural history of the varied habitats along the Potomac River and Canal. We'll proceed at a slow "*naturalist's shuffle*," as we experience the glorious unfolding of spring. We'll stop often to observe birds, wildflowers, butterflies, snakes, turtles, and whatever else we might find. *NOTE: Spaces are limited, so thanks for not registering for more than one walk per destination.*



## Early Spring Wildflower Hike

**Friday, March 26 (10 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Sujata Roy**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Beat the winter blues by joining this search for the earliest spring wildflowers in the woods and bottomlands along the Potomac River near Carderock Recreation Area, just outside the Beltway. We'll look for the greening leaves, swelling buds, and (fingers crossed) unfolding flowers of species such as Harbinger of Spring, Early Saxifrage, Spring Beauty, and Bloodroot. *NOTE: our roughly 1.5 mile hike will include uneven, rocky, and likely muddy stretches on natural surface trails.*

## Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

**A. Saturday, March 27 – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Paul Pisano)**

**B. Saturday, April 3 – Dyke Marsh, VA (Lisa Shannon & Rob Hilton)**

**C. Thursday, April 8 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni)**

**D. Sunday, April 11 – Patuxent Research Refuge/Headquarters Tract, MD (Len Bisson)**

**E. Sunday, April 18 – Lois Green Conservation Park, MD (Mark England)**

**F. Wednesday, April 21 – Wootton's Mill Park, MD (Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni)**

**G. Saturday, April 24 – Hughes Hollow, MD (Cathy Stragar)**

**H. Thursday, April 29 – National Arboretum, DC (Paul Pisano) (8-11 am)**

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

Immerse yourself in the phenomenon of spring migration with this series of short bird walks at nearby parks. These walks are designed for beginning and intermediate birders for whom the spring pulse of bird activity can sometimes be overwhelming. On each walk, we'll search for both resident and migrant birds by song and sound. We'll discuss the arrival sequence of these spring travelers, practice finding them in the field, and attempt to learn the songs of many species.

Our trips include walking on natural surface trails and/or boardwalks which may be muddy, uneven, and/or slippery. Trips E, F and H include some mild uphill/downhill. Trip H will run from 8-11 am.

*Participants will provide their own binoculars.*

*Due to Covid precautions, there will be no sharing of spotting scopes on these trips.*



*Northern Parula by Dan Faulkner/Wikimedia*

## Sleepy Moon Walk

**Saturday, March 27 (6-8 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Hope for clear skies in order to enjoy a brisk walk under the light of March's full moon--sometimes called the Sleepy Moon. Walking along the C&O Canal Towpath from Swain's Lock, we'll listen for the night-active wildlife and enjoy the shadows of tree skeletons along the way.

## Searching for Spring at Watkins Regional Park

**Sunday, March 28 (9 am-Noon)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members: \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Although no excuse is needed, we'll head outside this morning to welcome the arrival of spring at Watkins Regional Park near Largo, MD. Fingers crossed that we'll spot our first butterfly or two of the season on our mile or more meander. We'll listen for spring birdsong as well as the voices of amphibian activity. Early blooming wildflowers and trees will most certainly add fresh color to the woodland and wetland habitats we will explore.

## Warbler Warm-up

**Wednesday, March 31 (6:30-8:30 pm)**

**Leader: Mike Bowen**

**Members \$20; nonmembers \$28**

We think it's never too early to start brushing up on the voices and field marks of the soon-to-be arriving warblers. Even for the most seasoned birders, finding and properly IDing them as they arrive or pass through between late March through May can be a real challenge. Since we all need an annual refresher, we've enlisted the help of our most active and experienced birding trip leader. He will present a virtual tutorial using photos and recordings based on the general arrival sequence of warbler species in our region. Delivery will be on the Zoom platform, and registrants will receive a link for access.

## Beginning Wildflower ID

**Saturday, April 3 (9 am-Noon)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

April's spring wildflowers are dazzling! On this field class, based in the just-outside-the Beltway Carderock Recreation Area, we'll explore several short trails between the C&O Canal and the Potomac River. We'll work on developing the observational skills which are key to IDing wildflowers. As we're learning the names and niches of species such as Virginia bluebells, dutchman's breeches, toad trillium, and more, we'll also take time to just enjoy their beauty. Expect some rocky and uneven terrain on the natural surface trails.





## Geology of Difficult Run, VA

**Tuesday, April 6 (9 am-Noon)**

**Leader: Joe Marx**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

Virginia's Difficult Run descends through a curved picturesque gorge from Piedmont upland at Georgetown Pike to near sea level at the lower end of Mather Gorge. Outcrops of all the rock types found in Great Falls Park occur among the stream's cascades and little waterfalls. We will hike down the gorge towards the river and, when time runs out, return uphill to the parking lot. The maximum hike is about 2 miles, with 175 feet of altitude lost and regained. Trail surfaces are unpaved and generally level, but expect some muddy or rocky spots. The examination of several bedrock exposures will require clambering onto dry sections of the stream bed. *NOTE: our geology hikes move farther and faster than our usual naturalist's shuffle.*

## Bluebells and Budbreak at Boundary Bridge

**Wednesday, April 7 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)**

**Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

We're delighted that the author of the award-winning book, *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and the critically acclaimed, *City of Trees*, will offer her 15th year of ANS nature walks in the country's oldest urban national park. Under her expert guidance, you will witness the annual floral miracle of Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, and trout lilies in the floodplain forest, while the leaves of tulip tree and American beech begin to spill from their buds. We'll hope to catch bloodroot, wild ginger, cut-leafed toothwort and other blooming spring ephemerals as we explore both floodplain and upland woods at a leisurely pace. Time permitting, we'll do a bit of "forest bathing." Throughout, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for belted kingfishers, wood ducks, migrant songbirds, and tiny spring peeper frogs.

## The Magic of Early Spring Woods

**Fridays (10 am-12:30 pm)**

**A. April 9 - Monocacy Aqueduct, MD**

**B. April 16 - Carderock Recreation Area, MD**

**Leader: Marney Bruce**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

A stroll through an early spring woods can be magical, with the colors and forms of tree's and shrub's unfolding leaves and blooms catching the eye. In bottomland woods, there's the added delight of spring wildflowers underfoot. Our leader can't wait to share two of her favorite spots along the Potomac River: the habitats along the level C&O Canal Towpath at the Monocacy Aqueduct, and the floodplain trail of Billy Goat C downriver from Carderock, just outside the Beltway. Our walks follow possibly muddy/slippery natural surface trails. Billy Goat C includes some uneven ground, but none of the rock-hopping and scrambling of the upriver sections.

## The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

**Sunday, April 11 (2-4:30 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$30; nonmembers \$42**

They're lovely to behold. But their beauty belies the scrappy, survival strategies of our region's short-lived spring wildflowers. Coping with cold temperatures, species such as Trout Lily and Dutchman's Breeches race to complete their flowering and fruiting cycles before the brief window of spring sunlight gets shut out by the unfolding forest canopy. Our leader will spill some of their secrets in a roughly 1.5-mile round trip walk between Violettes and Riley's Locks along the C&O Canal.

Look for details on other April programs at [ANShome.org/adults](http://ANShome.org/adults). Registration for April programs will open in early March.

## Budbreak and Spring Wildflowers on Theodore Roosevelt Island

**Wednesday, April 14 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)**

**Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

## Bluebells in the Bottomland

**Tuesday, April 20 (10 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Marney Bruce**

## Spring Fungus Walks

**A. Wednesday, April 21 (9:30-11:30 am)**

**B. Saturday, April 24 (9:30-11:30 am)**

**Leader: Serenella Linares**

## Late April Riverwalk

**Thursday, April 29 (4-7 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

## Spring at Widewater

**Friday, April 30 (9:30 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

# 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](http://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.**

## Spring Caterpillars and Their Survival in the Face of Climate Change

**Tuesday, March 2 (7-8 pm)**  
**Presenter: Georgetown University Biology Professor Mariana Abarcatalk**

Listen to Biology Professor Mariana Abarcatalk about the natural history and seasonality of one of your backyard friends: Eastern tent caterpillars (*Malacosoma americanum*). Learn about their food sources, their predators, and the threats to their survival in the face of climate change. [REGISTER](#)



## Naturally Latinos Presents: Birding with Yamina: Exploring Birds and Nature in Urban Spaces

**Thursday, March 4 (7-8 pm)**  
**Presenter: Yamina Nater-Otero, Program Coordinator, Audubon NY**

You don't have to go very far to see great birds! Rediscover the wildlife value of our urban green spaces with our Naturally Latinos series speaker and Audubon New York Program Coordinator, Yamina Nater-Otero, as she walks you through beginning birding basics and redefines what it means to enjoy the outdoors. [REGISTER](#)

## White-tailed Deer: From Near Extinction to Overpopulation, and Where We Go from Here

**Wednesday, March 3 (7-8 pm)**  
**Presenter: Bill Browning, Arlington Regional Master Naturalist**

Got deer? We all do in the DMV! Learn about deer management strategies from Bill Browning. Humans practically drove the deer population of the mid-Atlantic to extinction by the early 20th century. Since then, the population has recovered to such an extent that overbrowsing degrades forest habitat for other wildlife. Learn what we all can do to address this problem. [REGISTER](#)



## Become a Garden Superhero

**Wednesday, March 10 (7-8 pm)**  
**Presenter: Jenny Brown, ANS Garden Outreach Associate**

Join ANS Garden Outreach Associate and Maryland Master Gardener Jenny Brown in the spring adventure of starting your garden! From testing your soil, to selecting your vegetable and herb seeds, to planting according to the amount of sun you have, Jenny will tune up your green thumb and transform you into a gardening hero. Like all other heroes, you will also learn how to protect your crop. [REGISTER](#)





## Mushrooms 101: Getting to Know Your Fungi Neighbors

Thursday, March 11 (7-8 pm)

**Presenter: Matthew Cohen, Owner, Matt's Habitats**

Dare to discover the unknown with Mycological Society of Washington DC Treasurer Matt Cohen in this introduction to fungi and mushrooms. Learn about the ecological roles of fungi, as well as how to identify poisonous and edible mushrooms in our area. [REGISTER](#)



## Appreciating Animals Ethically on Social Media

Thursday, March 25 (7-8 pm)

**Presenter: Ashley Gary, The Wildlife Host, Science Communicator**

Ashley Gray knows all about social media and wildlife observations. Animal lovers often want to get up close and personal, even with dangerous species like tigers. Some organizations and individuals share media that put these animals at risk, portraying unethical treatment as fun and cute. Ashley will share tips on avoiding such exploitative pages and how to support amazing people doing ethical work so that you can show your love for animals online while respecting their welfare. [REGISTER](#)

## Using Rock Dating to Determine the Age of Great Falls

Tuesday, March 23 (7-8 pm)

**Presenter: Joe Marx, NVCC Adjunct Professor in Geology**

Joe Marx will explain how geologists determined a precise age for the Great Falls of the Potomac. Until about 20 years ago, the best estimate of the age of Great Falls was between "several thousand to several million years." Rock dating techniques that became available in the late 1980s now allow us to give a much better answer. [REGISTER](#)

## Create Your Own State Park at Home!

Tuesday, April 6 (7-8 pm) (changed from March 24)

**Presenter: Melissa Boyle Acuti, Chief of Interpretation for the Maryland Park Service**

Melissa Boyle Acuti introduces us to the "Create Your Own State Park" program, inspired by the research of Dr. Douglas Tallamy. This program was launched during the pandemic in 2020 while people were spending more time at home to encourage families to think of their own yards as personal state parks. Learn how you can participate in this new program, connect your family to nature, and have more fun outdoors, all while expanding native habitat for wildlife! [REGISTER](#)



## Creek Critters? They're There! Find Them In Your Local Stream

Tuesday, March 30 (7-8 pm)

**Presenter: Gregg Trilling, ANS Conservation Outreach Manager**

What lives in your local stream and how healthy is it? Gregg Trilling, ANS Conservation Outreach Manager, will introduce you to several fascinating aquatic macroinvertebrates. He'll show you how to use ANS's Creek Critters® app to identify them in your local stream and discover what they mean for stream health. You might even be inspired to join ANS's volunteer-driven water quality monitoring program! [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 April programs to be listed in early/mid March.



# 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 mask-wearing and social distancing required. Registrants can elect to enroll in online classes only, or choose to participate in field trips as well, space permitting. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit [ANShome.org/nhfs](http://ANShome.org/nhfs).

## Freshwater Ecology

**NATH8217E, 3 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: April 6-June 1**

**Field trip dates: April 24 (Group A AM, Group B PM) and  
May 15 (Group A AM, Group B PM)**

**Location: Online via Zoom**

**Zoom lectures only: Members \$240; nonmembers \$265**

**Zoom lectures + field trips: Members \$300; nonmembers \$330**

**Instructor: Cathy Wiss**

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

This course will focus on stream ecosystems and the human-caused stressors that affect them. Topics include forms of freshwater; stream structure and function; benthic macroinvertebrates, freshwater fish, and their ecological interactions; stormwater management and ecological restoration. At the end of this course, students will have an understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes of freshwater bodies. Self-exploration of local waterbodies will be emphasized. On field trips, students will visit stream restoration sites, examine fish and aquatic organism habitat types, and sample for benthic macroinvertebrates. Registration closes April 2.

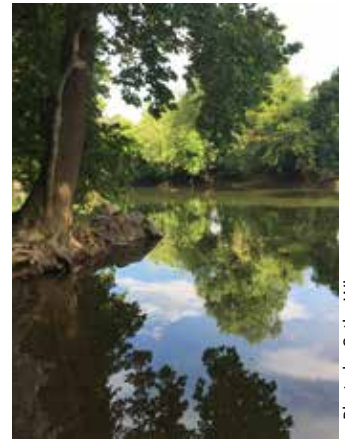


Photo by Cathy Wiss



Photo by Clare Walker

## Spring Flower Identification

**NATH7135E, 3 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: March 17-May 12**

**Field trip dates: Location TBA: Group A: April 15, Group B: April 18;  
Thompson WMA Group A: May 2, Group B: May 4**

**Location: Online via Zoom**

**Zoom lectures only: Members \$240; nonmembers \$265**

**Zoom lectures + field trips: Members \$300; nonmembers \$330**

**Instructor: Clare Walker**

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

Follow the changing of the season this spring as we look closely at wildflowers blooming in the Mid-Atlantic each week. The class will include field identification during different life stages, plant family relationships and habitat preferences so you can get outside and hunt yourself (by recording flower observations in an optional iNaturalist class project). Explore the relationships between the plants and their pollinators and seed dispersers to gain an understanding of each flower's role in the ecosystem. Spring wildflowers deserve our admiration for their incredible adaptations to overcome seasonal vagaries from low temperatures to short growing seasons. The field trips feature two of the area's best wildflower locations. Students will choose field trip group at a later date. Registration closes March 12.

## 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.



## Introduction to Ornithology

NATH7118E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: April 8-June 3

Field trip dates: Hughes Hollow – Group A: April 24, Group B: April 25; Little Bennett Regional Park – Group A: May 22, Group B: May 23 (max 8 students)

Location: Online via Zoom

Zoom lectures only: Members \$240; nonmembers \$265

Zoom lectures + field trips: Members \$300; nonmembers \$330

Instructor: Gemma Radko

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)



Learn about birds and their special characteristics. Study their external and internal anatomy, feather structure, plumage and special adaptations for flight and feeding. We'll study bird behavior including migration, courtship, mating, nesting, and care of the young. And we'll explore bird habitats, ecology, conservation, and distribution worldwide. Field trips emphasize field identification, bird song and other behavior. Students will choose field trip group at a later date. Registration closes April 2.

## 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](http://www.anshome.org/nhfs).

Questions? Contact [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto: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.

## 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.



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



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# Adults and Nature Photos



ANS fan, member, and hiker Christian Dorisca poses (pre-Covid-19) near a boulder at Great Falls, Maryland, during a day-hike with a friend. Dorisca says getting outdoors more often to explore nature spaces is one of her favorite things about spring.





Gunner's Lake in Germantown, MD has been a "hotspot" for waterfowl this winter. ANS member Peter Boice snapped this picture of a Pied-billed Grebe in December on our walk led by Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni. These diving birds are here year-round, but most abundant during fall and spring migration. Adults don't show their black band (pied) on their bills until breeding season. Their white "rump" is always there.



Crowds have been gathering at Great Falls Park, MD since late December when an errant Painted Bunting was spotted along the C&O Canal. ANS member Frank Witebsky took this great shot of the Painted Bunting in early January. While not unheard of in Maryland, the last sighting in Montgomery County before this may have been 1972. Will we see more of these striking birds as climate change drives their breeding habitat north from the southeastern U.S.?

# Partner Profile



## A Lifetime of Change: How Dennis Chestnut Influenced the Anacostia River

by Adam Miller, Communications Director,  
Alliance for the Bay



After 50 years of working on the most challenging issues facing the Chesapeake Bay, you learn a few things. In 2021, the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](https://www.allianceforthebay.org) is celebrating five decades of convening diverse voices to improve water quality. All of our work is done through partnerships. And we are proud to count Audubon Naturalist Society as our partner in clean water work across the region. Today, the Alliance is excited to lift up

the voice of our incredible board member, Dennis Chestnut, who is a longtime ANS partner as well.

As a lifetime resident of Washington DC, and founder of Groundwork Anacostia, Dennis Chestnut knows all too well the struggles of repairing and restoring the quality of our Chesapeake Bay Watershed. But it wasn't always that way. Growing up on Watts Branch, a tributary to the Anacostia River, Dennis formed an early relationship with water. The watershed was his playground, and although he didn't know it at the time, his early explorations were the building blocks for a lifelong conservation journey.

At School Dennis developed a passion for science, the one subject that he could tie directly to his roots on the banks of the Anacostia. Later in life, Dennis' kids were drawn to the river's edge. Dennis quickly realized that his childhood playground wasn't the beautiful clean space that he remembered. Decades of deforestation, development, and polluted stormwater runoff, had degraded the quality of the water. He dove in the deep end, so to speak, and it was here that the interconnectedness of the watershed would lead Dennis on a journey that he couldn't have imagined.

His passion for restoring the quality of the watershed led him to create Groundwork Anacostia DC, where he was the Executive Director for 14 years. ANS worked with Dennis to help Groundworks' Green Team Program students check the health of community streams by searching for and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates using ANS's Creek Critters® app. The Green Team trained

young adults in conservation, environmental restoration, watershed restoration and community outreach, while engaging them in the natural wonders of their neighborhoods.

Dennis has served six years on the board of directors at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and is working to transition a new Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee Chair to lead the committee that he championed over the last four years. Dennis also collaborates with the Alliance to recruit youth participants for our annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum where ANS is a frequent presenter. Dennis also plays an important role in the DC Workforce Development initiative. Dennis' work creates inclusive opportunities for underrepresented communities to understand and advocate for more equitable access to clean water, and a more just and inclusive Chesapeake Bay.

Dennis is widely recognized as a uniting energy, and he has recently been recognized through various awards, as he continues to generously share his knowledge and experience. As part of the Audubon Naturalist Society's "Taking Nature Black" conference, Dennis has inspired attendees to learn more, dig deeper, and work toward a common goal of clean water for all 18 million people who live in the Chesapeake.

Today, due to the passion and dedication of individuals like Dennis, the Anacostia is on the mend. For Dennis, it's all just part of a lifelong journey to take care of the places that have taken care of him. Want to hear more from Dennis? Visit [www.allianceforthebay.org/50stories](https://www.allianceforthebay.org/50stories) to listen to an audio story of Dennis telling the story in his own words.



ANS teams up with Groundwork Anacostia staff member Dominique Skinner to introduce students to *Creek Critters* in Watt's Branch. Photo by Gregg Trilling.



# Stream Science



## STREAM SCIENCE CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

ANS is pleased to offer a new online, recorded class series for **Advanced Aquatic Insect Family Identification**, taught by Cathy Wiss. How will it work? Take online classes at your own pace. Attend one or more live, online review sessions with Cathy. As usual, Team Leaders will be asked to pass a macroinvertebrate ID quiz before spring monitoring. This year you can take your quiz online!

**Eight classes available, each 80-100 minutes:** Introduction to Monitoring and Non-insect Macroinvertebrates; Caddisflies; Beetles; Megaloptera, Hemiptera, Lepidoptera; True Flies; Damselflies and Dragonflies; Mayflies; and Stoneflies.

**Live, online review sessions:** March 16 and March 22, 7-8 pm. Instructor: Cathy Wiss. Choose one or both. FREE!



## WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Many of our water quality monitoring teams collected stream health data this winter for the long-running ANS community science program. ANS Volunteers stepped into streams to catch, identify and record aquatic macroinvertebrates to check water quality in the stream. Winter can be a productive time for finding stonefly larvae which may indicate good stream health. Not familiar with this program? Visit [anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring/](https://anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring/).



Winter Stonefly, Family Taeniopterygidae, by Gregg Trilling

## CREEK CRITTERS®

Are you related to or friends with a Montgomery County Public Schools 6th-grade student? MCPS's Outdoor and Environmental Education staff has been livestreaming biological, chemical and physical assessments of County streams into middle school classrooms. Use ANS's free Creek Critters® app to find and identify aquatic macroinvertebrates highlighted by our MCPS colleagues and to learn how to check up on your stream's health.

We hope to begin visiting streams for Creek Critters outreach activities in the coming months. Watch for announcements! In the meantime, you can learn more about these fascinating stream residents @anscreekcritters on Instagram.



## Feature Photos



The Margined Calligrapher is a common species of hoverfly. It is found in many parts of North America. Their larvae are helpful in gardens as the predators of thrips, aphids, and small caterpillars. This calligrapher was found down the street from the photographer's home in Newark, DE in a pond. Photo by David Greaves.



The Painted Turtle is the most widespread native turtle of North America. It lives in slow-moving fresh waters, from southern Canada to northern Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Found in Delaware City, DE at Dragon Run Marsh, named for the "insane" amount of dragonflies you can find there. Photo by David Greaves.





This Cedar Waxwing's (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) photo was taken in the woods of Clinton, Maryland by David Greaves. A few fun facts about Cedar Waxwings are that they are sociable and can be seen in flocks year 'round. They move from place to place depending on where they can find a good source of berries. Waxwings have been known to get drunk from eating fermented berries.

# How A Virginia Creek and its Wildlife Inspired Earth Day Heroes

by Renee Grebe, Virginia Conservation Advocate

Katy Johnson and her two children, Mickey (age 11) and Bailey (age 8), have always found playing in the creek to be the highlight of their day. Accotink Creek runs directly behind their property and it's one of the reasons the Johnsons bought their house. So when Katy heard from a neighbor about the City of Fairfax's plan to bury the North Fork of Accotink Creek, she jumped at the chance to save the creek, even though she had not participated in environmental advocacy before.

During Audubon Naturalist Society-led Zoom calls about saving the North Fork, Katy emerged as a key community leader. Katy wrote letters to her council members, engaged neighbors of Accotink Creek, and supported her children becoming a part of the advocacy campaign. Both Mickey and Bailey testified at the Planning Commission and City Council public hearings.

Unfortunately, the City Council approved burial of the North Fork to make way for the Northfax West development. But Katy and her family have remained active volunteers with Friends of Accotink Creek. They've helped return stranded fresh-water mussels to the creek after heavy storms. They helped move fish and salamanders out of harm's way from the North Fork to a safer part of Accotink Creek. With the Virginia Native Plant Society, they've rescued native plants from the Northfax West property. Among the plants they relocated were 20 skunk cabbages that Mickey named the Skunkertons. Katy and Mickey plan to get certified as stream monitors this coming spring, and Katy has applied for the Fairfax Master Naturalist program.

Even more impressive, Mickey met a councilmember during a Boy Scout meeting and asked him to explain his vote to "bury the creek." Bailey wrote about her fight for the creek for a school assignment, in which she said, "I went to the creek to see it. When I got to (there), I saw fish. I (heard) frogs. The creek is alive. I spoke at the planning commission meeting and the city council meeting...My voice is small, but everybody (heard) me."

Thank you to our Earth Day, and now every day, heroes – Katy, Mickey, and Bailey – for all they do to advocate for a more environmentally-friendly world! To sign up for Action Alerts about environmental protection in your community go to: <https://anshome.org/sign-up-for-ans-action-alerts/>



*Bailey & Mickey Johnson at a Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS) plant sale at Northfax West. Photo credit: Katy Johnson*



## Volunteer Corner

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

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

Winter is behind us and spring is hinting at the promises of the year to come. This year will be another challenging one for our volunteers, but volunteer opportunities will continue to increase slowly. Like our featured volunteer this quarter, you may be interested in finding a new way to help ANS. I'll let **Diane Proia** tell you her story in her own words [Lightly edited for length and clarity]:



After retiring from teaching high school biology, I found that I missed my students and my colleagues and wanted to find a community that shared my passion for science and education. I enrolled in the Maryland Master Naturalist Program at ANS. The class exceeded my expectations. I met remarkable individuals and found my home away from home.

I remember the joy I felt when I went on a bird-watching trip and saw my first warblers.

Though I had always looked for them on previous walks, I had never encountered them on my own. During that field trip, I learned they were all around us; I just needed the right tools (binoculars), location (Carderock), and knowledge (courtesy of ANS) to find them.

I also enjoyed taking classes in stream science. I loved wading into local brooks, crubbing rocks, and collecting samples of creek water to determine the health of the stream. The class gave me the tools to continue learning and exploring on my own, using the ANS Creek Critters® app. I had such a good experience that I now volunteer as a Water Quality Monitor at a stream near my home.

I so enjoyed my classes with ANS and the community of fellow learners and educators that I signed on to volunteer with the Development Department to assist with fundraising events. With the onset of the Covid-19 crisis and the temporary cessation of some of ANS's operations during the pandemic, I began to contemplate whether there were additional ways I might contribute.

Besides my commitments to education and natural science, I am also interested in crafts and art. As I thought about how to blend my interests, I hit upon the idea of making pinecone wreaths to sell in the ANS Shop. Our Events Committee eagerly lent a hand. We collected pinecones in our neighborhoods and came together safely to create natural wreaths. Our campaign was such a great success that we will continue working on wreaths and other projects year-round.

ANS has become a second home for me; where I can learn new things, share my knowledge, work with new friends, create, contribute and enjoy nature. Everything that I was looking for—at ANS! For more info on volunteering with ANS, email [mitch.greene@anshome.org](mailto:mitch.greene@anshome.org).

## The Plants at Woodend: A poppy family blossom heralds the delight of spring

by Jenny Brown, Garden Outreach Associate

Spring is coming! It really is! The birds are letting us know with their exuberant songs. My eyes have been searching the garden beds for weeks to be the first to spy bits of green 'nosing' out of the leaf litter.

One of the first native plants to emerge is bloodroot or *Sanguinaria canadensis*, a member of the poppy family. Its deeply lobed leaves open around white, multi-petaled blossoms. Leaf and flower appear at the same time. As you explore Woodend in March and April, be sure to walk the paths in the Blair Garden to see this lovely native ground cover. The flowers won't last long! Too early for many insects, the flowers have no nectar and often self-pollinate. When ripe, capsules burst to scatter the seeds, which are picked up by ants. In their nests, the ants dine on elaiosomes, the nutrient-rich bumps on the surface of the seeds. And by bringing the elaiosome to their nests, ants disperse the bloodroot seeds. Being tidy creatures, the ants dispose of the seeds in refuse tunnels, ideal conditions for new bloodroot plants. Win! Win!

Bloodroot gets its name from the red-orange juice in the stalks and roots. Native Americans used this liquid for dyeing and insect repellent. It is highly poisonous when ingested. So, let your eyes do the feasting and enjoy some of our favorite things about spring plants at Woodend.



ANS member Gail Melson spied this bloodroot blossom in Sligo Creek Park.

## Landscapes for Life: Conservation Gardening

This April and May take a deeper dive into the world of gardening. Garden Outreach Associate Jenny Brown will teach you to nurture both native and edible plants to feed wildlife, while making your own lifestyle more sustainable. Program will take place on Thursdays from 1:30-3:30 pm outside at Woodend. Visit [www.anshome.org/events-calendar](http://www.anshome.org/events-calendar) for more details and to register.



# Feature Photos

Jane Gamble, a talented photographer whose many photos have graced the pages of the *Naturalist Quarterly*, captured these amazing shots of a Northern River Otter in early February at Huntley Meadows Park, VA. Below is her account of the experience.

*While Northern River Otters are no strangers to the ponds and marshes of Huntley Meadows, this particular otter, (probably a female) treated us to an experience that was truly unique. The presence of otters signals clean water and healthy fish. According to a 2020 Washington Post article, a restoration project on the grounds years ago has helped reduce invasive species and attract back healthy, native ones. The otter showed no fear of those of us photographing it from the boardwalk and even swam close to “check us out” at times. On the days when I was there, everyone maintained a safe and respectful distance from the animal. We kept our voices down and our movements to a minimum. Most importantly, we didn’t harass or bait the animal. By practicing ethical wildlife photography, the river otter felt safe to play, fish, groom, and rest on the ice in front of us. As a photographer, I can only say that it was a gift, and one for which I am grateful. Sadly, at other times, people on the boardwalk stressed the otter - they got too close, or made quick, loud movements. Educating people in the importance of behaving responsibly around wild animals is an important part of being a good steward of the environment. When Fairfax County learned that there were issues, they did a great job of using the otter’s appearance as an opportunity to educate the public on how to respect and protect wild creatures.*

We hope that as you enjoy these fun-filled photos, you'll help us do the same.







Want to learn more about ethical ways of engaging wildlife? Join Ashley Gary, The Wildlife Host, for a Naturalist Hour entitled "Appreciating Animals on Social Media" on Thursday, March 25 from 7-8 pm. More info on page 19.



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety



## Let's get outside and Count for Nature with the ANS Bloomin' Birdathon 2021!

Calling all ANS members and supporters!

Spring is approaching and so are the migrating birds, and soon we will be seeing our local park areas filled with precious wildflowers. So, let's get outside and count nature's wonders in support of ANS's environmental programs and services.

Once again, we are revising the rules to accommodate Covid-19 regulations\* while encouraging *everyone* to get outside and have fun for a great cause. Novice or expert, anyone can participate in this important fundraiser for ANS.

### How it works:

- Individuals or teams count as many birds or blooms as they can over a 24-hour non-consecutive period between April 15 and May 31.
- Counters get sponsors to pledge a set amount of money per species seen or a flat amount for their efforts.
- Feeder counts and Webcam counts over a 24-hour period are encouraged for those who don't want to go out.
- Children can count anything and/or use one of our games as often as they want.
- Participants and their sponsors will receive a 20% discount coupon (excluding optics) to the ANS shop.

We have created an extensive packet of resources for a fun experience counting for a cause. We can also provide "designated spotters" for teams who feel they need help identifying species.

### Why this fundraiser is so important:

It's been a full year since the shutdown began and it is having a serious impact on the level of programs and services that ANS can provide. Once again, we have had to cancel our spring fundraising dinner, Audubon After Dark, so this year's Bloomin' Birdathon is critical to help us:

- continue to develop ready-to-go | lessons that teachers across our region can easily use
- provide digital programs for children and adults as well as small group in-person programs
- build and strengthen our community coalitions to protect our remaining natural areas
- ensure that we can continue our community science programs especially our water quality monitoring program that does so much to protect healthy habitats for people and wildlife

We urge you to join the fun and/or support one of the counters. You can register to count at [anshome.org/birdathon-register](https://anshome.org/birdathon-register) or contact Jacky Wershale at [jacky.wershale@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershale@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x31 for more information.

Thank you!

\*Please be sure to always follow CDC guidance and government regulations for social distancing.





## IN REMEMBRANCE

*With fondness and heavy hearts, ANS announces the passing of the following ANS leaders and supporters and sends our deepest condolences to their families and friends:*

### Helen Ann Patton



Helen Patton was a lifetime seeker of knowledge and totally generous helper of other people, animals and organizations, including many devoted to environmental awareness and the enhancement of nature.

For ANS, she was a 30-year member

and donor, a graduate of the ANS Master Naturalist and Natural History Field Studies courses, and a lover of Woodend, where she liked nothing better than to plant trees. Helen spoke as one the “voices” for ANS’s long-running and popular “Voice of the Naturalist” service that reported local bird sightings. She volunteered in the ANS Naturalist shop and the Holiday Fair and, as an indefatigable fundraiser, served on the leadership committee of ANS’s recent Nature for All Capital Campaign and on the new Donor Host Committee.

Helen also served the Montgomery Bird Club as President, Vice-President, and long-time Membership Secretary. Her love of animals led her to volunteer regularly at local shelters, and her devotion to (indoor) cats was legendary. She was a regular at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival and she sported, and used, a large, impressive loom in her delightful Silver Spring home. In short, she was a Renaissance Woman par excellence. To travel with Helen on one of her many nature- and bird-related trips to all parts of the globe was to experience the essence of the woman – a delightful and witty companion, always ready with a laugh or timely quip, and an utterly unselfish field observer who never obsessed or complained about missing “that great bird.”

We are deeply grateful to Helen for her dedication to ANS and the environment. Her loss is a truly painful one for those of us who were privileged to know her.

### George Furness

George Furness was a member of ANS since the early 1970’s, joined the Board of Directors of ANS in 1993, and served as Board Secretary from 1997-1999. George received an M.A. in International Relations in 1951 from Harvard University and followed a 30-year career in the Foreign Service which took him on assignments around the world.

A longtime supporter of wildlife and habitat conservation, George founded and served as President of the Conservation Treaty Support Fund and was involved with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) for several years. Known for his gregarious nature and good humor, George was persistent in advocating for ANS to develop contacts with major government initiatives in environmental matters.



twitter.com/ANStweets

### Cris Fleming



Cristol (Cris) Fleming passed away peacefully at home with husband Jon and family beside her on January 15, 2021. Cris loved children and was a gifted teacher who taught for many years at Green Acres School in Rockville, Maryland. In 1975, she rode her bicycle to a job interview at Audubon Naturalist Society and was

hired to launch ANS’s beloved after-school and summer nature programs at Woodend. Cris eventually became the Director of Environmental Education and hired both ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason and ANS Executive Director Lisa Alexander as environmental education interns. She inspired thousands of people to bond with nature through her work at ANS.

Cris inspired adults and children to love native plants and their habitats. In the field, she used a hands-on approach to help students of all ages appreciate the beauty of each plant before diving deeper into the science. In addition to being an outstanding teacher, Cris was a serious botanist and skilled writer. Cris was principal author of [Finding Wildflowers in the Washington-Baltimore Area](#), which is an invaluable resource to the scientific community and amateur naturalists alike.

Cris worked for the Maryland Natural Heritage Program surveying endangered plants and as a contract botanist for the National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, and other organizations. She served on the ANS Board and Programs Committee for many years, as well as the Maryland and Virginia Native Plant Societies. In 2016 she was awarded the prestigious Bartsch Award presented to ANS members who have made distinguished contributions to the field of natural history.

A perfect day for Cris was spent with students or friends (many of her students became lifelong friends) traipsing through the woods, across rocks, and even over fences to scout out wildflowers and rare plants. She taught people to be curious, have fun and work hard to get the plant identification right without fearing to say, “I don’t know.” She had a great sense of humor and a wonderful laugh. Her legacy will continue to inspire all of us to learn more about the precious natural world that Cris treasured and understood so deeply. When you visit the stately trees at Woodend Sanctuary, Cris’s spirit will be there.

### Elizabeth Allen

Elizabeth Allen was an active member of ANS for more than 50 of her 103 years. Elizabeth volunteered extensively with ANS helping in particular with the Holiday Fair and other events. Visitors to the ANS shop in the 1990’s will remember her for her friendly nature and great humor. A native Washingtonian, Elizabeth lived most of her life in the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area and was an avid gardener and a member of the Bethesda Community Garden Club for 71 years.

# Restoration

## Woodend's Stream to Bubble and Breathe New Life

by Bradley Simpson, Restoration Manager

Coming this summer to Woodend: more frogs, salamanders and dragonflies! Plus, for the first time ever, nature lovers who use wheelchairs, canes or strollers will be able to enjoy meadows, forest, and stream habitat. Best of all, these improvements at Woodend will mean less pollution downstream to Rock Creek and the Chesapeake Bay. All of this will be possible because of generous donors, and after much work with designers, engineers and permit authorities, the "Nature for All" stream and trail restoration project is finally underway. Right now, Woodend is abuzz with construction vehicles, but soon our natural oasis will welcome more wildlife and more people to find respite from the stresses of urban life.

The coordination of these two projects minimizes overall site disturbance, since the required "haul road" for the stream restoration will be developed into the wheelchair accessible nature trail at the end of construction. The contractor, Stormwater Maintenance & Consulting, installed a heavy layer of mulch and wood planking on the haul road to allow heavy machinery to access the area without damaging the underlying soil. Bright blue "filter logs" were also installed for sediment control. These long tubes filled with a coarse compost material retain sediment within the project area. These logs do not require trenching, making them a great choice for protecting tree roots in our forest.

Once the site preparation was completed, the stream restoration began at the downstream end of Woodend's ephemeral stream. When complete, the stream restoration will consist of a series of over 40 "step pools" that slow water during storm events. These are created with stone and log dams, also known as weirs, that hold back water in pools. In between each pool is a stone "riffle", or miniature waterfall. In addition to these structures, large root balls from trees that were necessary to remove will be added to provide habitat for amphibians and macroinvertebrates, such as dragonflies. Visit the [Woodend Restoration page](#) of the ANS website to follow the progress of this exciting project!



*Once our stream restoration is complete, we are looking forward to attracting dragonflies like this Blue Dasher, captured by photographer Dirck Harris years ago.*







It's time to get  
your garden ready!

AUDUBON NATURALIST SHOP  
@ WOODEND SANCTUARY  
OPEN 11AM-3PM  
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**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

For up-to-date info on Covid and ANS programming, visit [www.anshome.org/covid](http://www.anshome.org/covid)

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



**Master Naturalist  
Training at Woodend  
Sanctuary!**



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Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

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[Master Naturalist Application](#) opens on April 15.

The Audubon Naturalist Society is pleased to partner with UMD Extension to offer [Maryland Master Naturalist](#) training. This program engages citizens as stewards of Maryland's ecosystems through science-based education and volunteer service.

Master Naturalists are our go-to volunteers on whom we rely greatly. Some have become committee and even board members. If you're already a volunteer and want more, please consider becoming a MD Master Naturalist. If you're interested in becoming a highly-qualified volunteer and spending time outside with our environmental education, conservation or restoration departments, please [apply](#).

2021 Fall Training Program:  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 am-3 pm  
September 8 - November 1

[Learn more](#) and [apply](#) online (accepting applications from April 15-May-15).

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