

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

# Naturalist Quarterly

Winter 2018

ANSHOME.ORG



'Tis the Season for Giving and Receiving

ANS NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

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

#### HEADQUARTERS

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

#### STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

Sunday 12-5 PM

#### GROUNDS HOURS

Dawn to dusk

#### ANS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$15

Individual \$50

Family \$65

Nature Steward \$100

Audubon Advocate \$200

Sanctuary Guardian \$500

Naturalists Council \$1,000

Preservationist \$1,000+

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

ISSN 0888-6555

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Environmental Education x16

Membership x35

Publications, advertising x23

Rentals x38

Volunteers x30

Contributions x31

Special Events x12

Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

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

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Environmental Educator

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##### WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Cathy Wiss

##### RENTALS

Beatriz Engel

# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

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**COVER** HD Cooke student on Discovery Hunt at Woodend Sanctuary. Photo by Serenella Linares.

**STAFF UPDATES:** We are pleased to announce two promotions of talented ANS staff members. **Bjorn Busk** has been promoted to Property Manager after ably serving as Assistant Property Manager at Woodend for the past 15 years. **Alison Pearce** has been promoted to Director of Restoration to implement ecological restoration projects at Woodend Sanctuary. Alison has been our Volunteer Manager for the past 3 years. She earned her PhD in Anthropological Sciences from Stanford University, spent two years with the Peace Corps in El Salvador working on agroforestry and sustainable agriculture and has spent much of her time as Volunteer Manager working on the Woodend restoration projects with our Meadow Team, Blair Native Plant Garden Team and our Volunteer Master Naturalists. Both Bjorn and Alison bring skill, dedication and experience to their new positions.

## From the Director

### Tis the Season - for Action!

Some nights when I close my eyes, I expect to be haunted by the ghosts of ANS leaders. I wonder if Theodore Roosevelt will come to me in my dreams to rail against the opening of National Monuments to mining and drilling. Will Roger Tory Peterson appear at my bedside to decry attempts to dismantle the Endangered Species Act? Might Rachel Carson's apparition rattle the windows to sound the alarm that the Environmental Protection Agency is in grave danger of being completely defunded? The giants of ANS's history would not hang their heads in the face of major threats to the natural world. Theodore and Roger and Rachel would do what came naturally to them. They would write, speak and rally. They would act!

During this season of thankfulness, of giving and of new resolutions, it is important for each of us to ask ourselves, how can I take action to defend nature? We cannot wait for another leader or another organization to stand up and fight. It's our job to make sure good local environmental laws stay strong even as federal regulations are defunded and defanged. Today, ANS must lay the groundwork for future generations of environmental stewards who will carry on, whatever the threat.

We may already see signs of regional policies weakening as federal oversight wanes. DC's new stormwater permit to curb water pollution has gone to the EPA and it is not as strong as it could be. We are raising our voices now on Maryland's pending permit, asking the state to buck the trend of lowered bars for pollution control. Who else but ANS, its staff, members and partners will speak out against dilution of local environmental policies? Here's how you can help. Sign up today to join our action network at [anshome.org/take-action](http://anshome.org/take-action) so that you'll know where and when to write, speak and rally. (Check out our Forest Conservation action opportunity on page 6).

It is also imperative for ANS to build new generations of conservationists who will carry on our work and the work of ANS heroes past. Every seed we teach children to plant, every hike we lead through the woods, and every class we take into a stream ensures that one more youngster will bond with nature and fight to protect it in the future. You can sign up to volunteer in support of our education staff at [anshome.org/volunteer](http://anshome.org/volunteer).

We must also demonstrate the power of environmental stewardship to the 60,000 visitors Woodend Nature Sanctuary welcomes each year. As we embark on restoration of Woodend's habitats, stream and pond, we will become a beacon for people who want to heal nature. You can be part of the restoration work and join a team that will shepherd special habitats at Woodend.

During this holiday season, let's be inspired to take action, volunteer, give generously and to renew our membership in this venerable 120-year-old organization that we cherish. On the shoulders of giants, we will stand together, decade after decade, in defense of the natural world. Thank you for taking action and for supporting Audubon Naturalist Society.



## Staff Recommendations for the Holidays from the Naturalist Shop



My recommendation: **National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms** by National Audubon Society, Carol Nehring. The guide is a great start for the mushroom enthusiast, with attractive pictures and compact book size; ideal to take with you on nature hikes. This guide is a classic.

Serenella Linares, School Programs Manager

I like the Christmas soaps and decorative gift bags for hostess gifts. Just bought some today!

Katrina Kugel, Salad Science Manager



Doesn't matter if it's holiday season or not, I just love T-shirts and that will be my number one item to shop for. Do you like snakes? Owls? Fish? Butterflies? Hummingbirds? No problem, you can get a T-shirt with them all at our Shop.

Bjorn Busk, Property Manager

Puppets! The Shop carries a wide variety of animal puppets. Puppets foster social interaction, role playing, imagination, storytelling, listening, and much more. Children will open up and share ideas, feelings and experiences with puppets much more easily than with adults. All you need is your sense of imagination and a few silly voices in your back pocket.

Stephanie Bozzo, Preschool Director



I recommend binoculars. On a snowy day, you can use them to keep an eye on your kids playing in the snow, or on a cruise, while birdwatching. And, why not for whale-watching? Binoculars are a timeless gift that will afford the recipient amazing views throughout life.

Beatriz Engel, Manager of Rental Events

**The Audubon Naturalist Shop's proceeds support our mission work. It is open Mondays-Fridays 10 am-5 pm, Saturdays 9 am-5 pm, and Sundays 10 am-5 pm. Call 301-652-3606 for more info on any of these gift ideas.**

# 'Tis the Season for Giving and Receiving



**When You Give: \$25**

Children will receive nature play supplies and materials and more.

Photo by Caroline Brewer



**When You Give: \$50**

Our citizen scientists will receive nets and test kits for water quality monitoring and more and Woodend will receive more trees to renew its habitat and more.

Photo: Tree Planting by Gregg Petersen



**When You Give: \$100**

An entire public school classroom will receive a chance to visit Woodend without charge and Woodend will receive more resources to bring back butterflies and more.

Photo by Serenella Linares



**When You Give: \$250**

Adults will receive the best nature education opportunity in this region and more and a family in need will receive an adventure in summer camp for a child.

Photo: Eastern-Tailed Blue Butterfly by Michael Bender

Please give where you live and become a **Champion of Nature**. We hope to raise \$50,000 before December 31. Help us reach our goal with a special anniversary year-end gift today. You can donate online at [anshome.org/give](http://anshome.org/give). Thank you.

# Giving and Receiving on the River of My Life

By Fred Tutman

*Fred Tutman is the Patuxent Riverkeeper, the only African American Riverkeeper in America. Tutman will be a featured speaker at the **2018 Taking Nature Black Conference on February 28** at ANS's Woodend Sanctuary. We hope you'll join us to hear Fred and many other African American environmentalists, business owners, and scholars. Go to [www.anshome.org/conferences](http://www.anshome.org/conferences) for more information.*

My sense of place has always had everything to do with my heartfelt connection to this work and to the natural resources I am charged with protecting. My upbringing in rural places and spaces has greatly influenced my work and my perspective on waterkeeping.

Growing up in a rural farming stretch of the Patuxent River Corridor, I giggered for frogs in placid ponds, hunted imaginary wolves in the forest with tobacco sticks and sold Japanese beetles harvested from garden plants to my great-grandfather at a penny a bug. Before my parents moved us to the ancestral home near Upper Marlboro, MD, I had lived until around age four in the cityscape of Baltimore. Eventually, my great-grandfather made a wedding present of some land to my parents, who built a split-level house.

From the start, the four corners of my world's playground were the wind, sky, forests, and, of course, the nearby river. This winding water body, with its murky



green depths, sometimes flooded its banks and ran up into the marshes, where flapping fish were trapped in the shallows after a flood, and where my playmates and I could easily wade up to our knees and, crouching over the struggling fish, flip them with our bare hands into buckets, steel trash cans, or any other handy container we could find. There seemed to me endless and infinitely ingenious ways to catch them.

The family farm (called Jones Farm) had been founded by my maternal great-grandfather, Carter Jones, in the 1920s. As a farm family, and as a community, we loved the earth in the way that anything or anyone indigenous is completely connected with the native environment. We did not think of ourselves as environmentalists, since the term was virtually unknown to us. But, rather, as those simply favored by nature in a special place all our own. Mother Earth was an ever-present force within the community, and a primal influence that held everything together. Oddly, I never looked at a map to figure out where the Patuxent came from or where it went until I became a Riverkeeper. It was enough to know that it came to us from some magical upstream place, carrying with it all manner of debris, interesting marine life, alien to our locale. In storms, it brought massive trees, even runaway boats and bits and pieces of human habitation from upstream communities that we knew were there but which had little to do with our own daily existence. On my battered workhorse bicycle without gears, I would huff and puff up the hills on the winding country single lane roads and then coast at terrific speeds down the other side of those hills with the wind roaring past my ears.

I could ride my bicycle along those paths and visit with fishermen who set up ad hoc fishing stations next to tree stumps or by the remains of a former tire or wood fire. Half-formed in my mind was the general sense that the river belonged to nobody, and yet



everybody, at the same time. And that in a world where people had state of the art machines and skills and ingenuity, the river remained a force independent of our will and technology.

When Brooke Watkins, an elder in my community, reached the venerable age of 106, he described to me how, when he was a boy, he swam with 500-pound sturgeon in the Patuxent. Imagine that these huge fish were once plentiful and now have managed to disappear forever from my river, and all, within the span of one man's lifetime!

My great uncle, Henry Hall, was an eccentric collector of tropical fish who lined every available wall space in his row home on Baltimore's Dolphin Street with fish tanks. We called him by his youthful nickname, Chug. Uncle Chug was an enthusiast, with enormous energy and zest for many, many things: photography, gadgets, inventing and, of course, his beloved fish. On visits during my pre-adolescent years, I helped him with the daily and arduous task of feeding, cleaning and maintaining all of those many (many) tropical fish tanks.

Uncle Chug's lifelong dream was to have a permanent home for aquaculture in Baltimore. This dream later emerged at the National Aquarium, which now dominates the Baltimore Inner Harbor waterfront. One wing of this imposing modern structure is named after my uncle. A statue bearing his likeness greets people who enter the building and each year, the museum gives a marine studies scholarship in his name to Baltimore youth.

Uncle Chug's love of nature, fascination with marine life and his adventuresome spirit lives within me and galvanized my progress as a future outdoor adventurer, seeker, and environmentalist.

# Conservation



## Policy and Advocacy News

By Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

### Maryland

**More Trees Please!**: Maryland's Forest Conservation Act is a wonderful law, but it has some big loopholes that mean when developers cut down trees in big tracts of intact forests, sometimes they only have to replant back one-fourth as many trees as were lost! ANS will be working with a statewide coalition next legislative session to improve the act.

Interested in getting involved? Make sure you sign up for our Action Alert list at [anshome.org/sign-up-for-ans-action-alerts/](http://anshome.org/sign-up-for-ans-action-alerts/) and check out our blog at [conservationblog.anshome.org](http://conservationblog.anshome.org).



### Virginia

#### Watershed Protection & Green Space on the Richmond Highway

Embark Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for Richmond Highway (Rt. 1) Corridor where residents, workers, and visitors can walk, bike, or drive to the places they want to go. ANS is a leading environmental organization engaged in the planning process. We are advocating for better watershed protection, stormwater management, and access to green space for residents. To attend meetings or learn more visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/).

**Ralph Northam Elected as Virginia Governor.** ANS is keeping up our essential work with state- and local-level elected officials and agencies to hold the line for environmental protections in this time of deteriorating federal regulations. ANS will work with the new Governor to continue to push priorities on clean water, habitat protection, and equal access to nature for all.

### District of Columbia

#### Speak Up on the Future of Rock Creek Park's Nature Center and Birding Area:

Last winter, the National Park Service considered several different options for changing the layout and infrastructure at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and nearby maintenance yard, one of our region's best spots for birding. Thanks to your comments opposing the development-intensive alternative, that option has been dropped. Learn about the new draft concept alternatives and **submit your comments by December 15 at** [parkplanning.nps.gov/rocrdcp](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/rocrdcp).

## Watershed Walk Along the Richmond Highway

Saturday, December 9 (10 am-12 pm)  
3600 Buckman Road (Rear Community Center),  
Alexandria, VA 22309

ANS NoVA Advocacy Manager Monica Billger will co-lead a watershed walk with the Coalition for Smarter Growth along the Richmond Highway to highlight the importance of environmental protection in the EMBARK planning. Join us! Email [monica.billger@anshome.org](mailto:monica.billger@anshome.org) to RSVP.

## Conservation Cafés

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

Join us at Woodend for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on a variety of nature conservation topics. Your \$10 registration fee goes to support our ANS Conservation Program. All programs are on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. **See line up and register at** [www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe](http://www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe).

#### Upcoming events:

- **January (date TBA): All about forests!** Learn about the importance of forest ecology, and how the campaign to improve Maryland's Forest Conservation Act will take shape in the legislative session.
- **February (date TBA): Ronda Chapman, Executive Director of Groundwork, DC**, on what urban community-led conservation looks like in Washington, DC.
- **March 1: Mike Tidwell, Executive Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network**, on fighting climate pollution at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

## Woodend Restoration Watch

With long time Volunteer Program Manager Alison Pearce starting her new role as Director of Restoration, exciting things will happen even faster at Woodend Sanctuary. That's why we're unveiling this page, our new Naturalist Quarterly recurring feature, Woodend Restoration Watch! Check this section to see what's new and upcoming as we restore our beautiful natural oasis inside the Beltway.



Photo by Caroline Brewer

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### **Ribbon-Cutting for Tree-Safe Rain Garden**

On October 13, together with our funders from the Chesapeake Bay Trust and Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, our contractor, Environmental Quality Resources, LLC, our partners at Rock Creek Conservancy and Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Delegate Al Carr (MD – Dist. 18) and the Audubon Nature Preschoolers, we cut the ribbon on our newly installed Tree-Safe Rain Garden. Another funder was EPA Region 3. Take a look below the stately walnut tree next time you're at Woodend to see this new garden that slows down, soaks in and filters the stormwater flowing off of our roof, driveway and parking lots. This green pollution control garden showcases your Water Quality Protection Charge dollars at work!

### **Stage Set for Woodend Restoration**

This fall, for the first time in many years, we will be able to plant native shrubs and trees at Woodend and have confidence that they will survive. With the construction of a perimeter deer fence around 33 of Woodend's 40 acres nearly complete, ANS stands ready to heal the deer damage to our habitats. Recently, The Nature Conservancy issued a statement about the kind of intense deer browsing pressure Woodend has experienced, saying, "No other threat to forested habitats is greater at this point in time [than deer overbrowsing]." We've already received our first bulk tree and shrub order, including the species American Holly (*Ilex opaca*), Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), and Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*). We look forward to seeing these new plantings grow and thrive at Woodend, watching for the return of tree saplings that will become the future forest, and nurturing the restoration of habitats for native species including shrub-nesting songbirds and the amphibians that require herbaceous cover. If you want to help steward Woodend restoration, please visit [anshome.org/volunteer](http://anshome.org/volunteer).

## Polar Bear Plunge!

ANS is participating in the Polar Bear Plunge again! Nora Kelly (Camp Director, pictured left), Eliza Cava (Conservation Director, pictured right), and Steven Pearce (Education Graduate Intern) will be jumping into the Potomac at National Harbor on January 27, 2018. Our ANS team is raising money for our Conservation Department and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN). If you would like to join our team or donate, please go to: <http://keepwintercold.org/team/AudubonNaturalistSociety>.



[facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety](https://facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety)

WINTER 2018

# Children & Family Programs

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



## Tales and Trails

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver

Tuesdays, December 5-February 20 (10 weeks)

No class 12/26 or 1/2

Winter Session: \$75 per child

On Tuesdays at 10 o'clock, join us in the historic Woodend mansion for nature-themed stories and songs. We will read a new book each week, learn nature songs, create fun crafts, and explore Woodend trails.

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

## Birthday Parties



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

## Holiday Campfire and Craft

Saturday, December 2 (4-5 pm)

Fee: \$10 per child, adults free

Come join us for a Holiday Campfire and Craft on Saturday, December 2 from 4-5 pm. We will provide all of the s'more ingredients. \$10 per child, adults are free. Please bring cash or a check. RSVP to [nora.kelly@anshome.org](mailto:nora.kelly@anshome.org)



Photo courtesy of [www.thecampfireexperience.com](http://www.thecampfireexperience.com)

## Weekend Walks in the Woods

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



## School's Out Camps

Do you want your children to be outside in nature learning and having fun on their day off from school? Then send them to our School's Out Camp! We'll explore the Woodend Nature Sanctuary, get muddy in the pond, build forts, and play games.

**Register online at  
anshome.org/parents**

**Friday, April 27, 2018**  
DCPS Day Off (Grades K-5)  
**Friday, May 25, 2018**  
DCPS Day Off (Grades K-5)  
**8:45 am-5 pm**  
**Members \$95;**  
**Nonmembers \$110**

## Summer Camp 2018 Important Dates

**Friday, December 1, 2017**  
Last day to become an ANS member and be eligible for members-only registration

**Late December, 2017**  
Catalog mailed to ANS members

**Saturday, January 27, 2018, 9 a.m.**  
Registration opens to ANS members who joined by 12/1/17

**Thursday, February 1, 2018, 9 a.m.**  
Registration opens to nonmembers and to new members who joined after 12/1/17

**New website address! Register at  
www.anshome.org/summer-camps.**



## Spring Break Camp

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

**Extended camp available from 3-6 pm**  
**Members \$347; nonmembers \$432**

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

Experience the wonders of Spring at Camp Audubon! Catch frogs in the pond, hike to Rock Creek, and get your hands dirty in our Children's Garden! Grades 6-9 can earn up to 20 SSL hours doing sanctuary stewardship activities.



## SUMMER NATURE CAMP

### Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies

### Capon Bridge, WV

**SENIOR PROGRAM (Ages 11-15)**  
Two week sessions ♦ June/July/August  
**JUNIOR PROGRAM (Ages 8-10)**  
One week ♦ August  
**ADULT WEEKEND (Ages 21+)**  
One weekend ♦ July

**56th Season**



**SLIDESHOW PRESENTATIONS IN 2018**  
January 20 ♦ 3 pm  
Burgundy Farm School  
3700 Burgundy Rd ♦ Alexandria, VA

Audubon Naturalist Society ♦ Woodend  
February 3 ♦ 10:30 am  
8940 Jones Mill Rd ♦ Chevy Chase, MD

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
[michelem@burgundyfarm.org](mailto:michelem@burgundyfarm.org)  
[burgundycenter.org](http://burgundycenter.org)  
703-842-0470



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

## Audubon Nature Preschool Open Houses

Bring your child for a fun time exploring our indoor and outdoor classrooms. Please plan on a 15 minute visit inside the classroom to look around and ask any questions of the preschool staff. Then plan to walk the trails and discover what makes our preschool truly unique and one-of-a-kind: our 40 acre nature preserve!

RSVP at <https://anshome.org/preschool-open-house-rsvps>.

- December 1 (12:30-1:30 pm)
- December 2 (9:30-11 am)
- January 20 (9:30-11 am)
- February 3 (9:30-11 am)

Questions? Contact Stephanie Bozzo at 301-652-9188 x32 or email [stephanie.bozzo@anshome.org](mailto:stephanie.bozzo@anshome.org).



### Nature Backpacks

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

## Audubon Nature Preschool



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

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

All Nature Preschool programs run September-May.

### Contact Us

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

**APPLY ONLINE**

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

### Current School year (17-18) Drop-off Programs

#### Saplings

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

#### Oaks

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

**WAITLIST**

### Parent and Child Programs

#### Acorns

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

**WAITLIST**

#### Sprouts

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

**WAITLIST**

### Donate Now to Support Our School

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

## Audubon Nature Preschool Schedule

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

# Rust / Northern Virginia

## Environmental Science Field Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

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

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

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

Book your next field trip to Rust Nature Sanctuary and visit our 68 acres of habitats, including meadow, forest, pond and vernal pool.

## Naturalist in the Classroom

A great way to bring a field trip to your school during the winter!

Can't come to Rust? Reduce your carbon footprint and we will come to you!

ANS programs support key components of project-based learning via real world connections and are designed to meet Virginia Standards of Learning. Programs highlight human, impacts, ecological systems, natural resources, investigations and natural process through hands-on, STEM focused classroom activities.

PreK-5th: Wonderful Worms, Birds of A Feather, Green Cleaners, Papermaking

3rd-5th: We All Live Downstream, Skull and Scat, Garbology, Model Your Watershed, Watts Up, Erosion in a Bottle

Hands-on STEAM activities tie directly to Virginia Standards of Learning. Programs support Project Based Learning. ANS partners with the LCPS Science Department. Grades Pre-K-5. Programs can be adapted.

## Questions about Registration?

Email Susanne Ortmann at [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org) for more information or to book a school visit.

## Fresh Air Kids

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

**Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA  
Fridays (10-11:15 am)**

**January 12-March 2, 2018**

**Cost: \$110 (siblings 21 months and older \$100, siblings under 21 months free)**

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

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

## Salad Science for Northern VA schools!

A Sustainable Project based learning opportunity.

With on-site support from an ANS Naturalist, students grow lettuce while learning about plant science and nutrition through a variety of sustainable hands-on lessons. Students log data, make predications, record observations and track plant growth in a journal. Geared for grades PreK to 5th, the project culminates with a harvest and salad party including healthy toppings and dressings.

- Cross-curricular STEAM lessons align with Virginia Science and Health SOLs
- Served over 1500 LCPS and FCPS students
- Supports school system initiatives including "One to the World", Go-to-Green and Virginia Naturally Recognition
- Supported by LCPS and FCPS Science and Nutrition Services



**RUST  
NATURE  
SANCTUARY**

**KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE**  
703-669-0000 | [ANSHome.org/Rust](http://ANSHome.org/Rust)  
802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia

# Adult Programs

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

*Wild places are closer than you think.* ®

## ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

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

### Winter Birding at Black Hill

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

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

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

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

Leader: Mark England

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

Entire series \$72/\$101

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

### Late Autumn Tree Walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island

Saturday, December 2 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

**WAITLIST  
OPEN**

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

### Natural Heritage Series: Gettysburg National Park

Sunday, December 3 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: David Farner

Members: \$32; nonmembers: \$46

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

### Geology of Holmes Run Gorge

Saturday, December 9 (12-4 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Birding Hotspots in Loudoun County

Sunday, December 10 (8 am-4 pm)  
Leaders: Joe Coleman and Laura McGranaghan  
Members (ANS & LWC) \$36; nonmembers \$50

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

## Winter at Widewater

Saturday, January 6 (10 am-3 pm)  
Leader: Stephanie Mason  
Members: \$34; nonmembers \$48

It's a brand new year. Time to get outside and walk off those excess calories consumed over the holidays. And where better to do that than along the Potomac River just outside the Beltway. We'll hike a 4-mile loop: along the C&O Canal towpath from the Widewater area upriver to Great Falls—and back. Leaves will be down giving us expansive views of the rocky woods, sycamore bottomlands, and flowing waters of the river as we search for winter active wildlife and try our hands at winter plant ID.

## Geology at the National Zoo

Saturday, January 6 (1-4 pm)  
Leader: Joe Marx  
Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

About 480 million years ago, an arc of oceanic volcanoes merged with the growing continent that would eventually become North America. Within the grounds of the National Zoo and nearby Rock Creek Park, metamorphosed seafloor sediments and a large fault zone bear witness to this ancient geologic collision. We will examine a variety of outcrops on a hike of about 2 miles, using a loop of paved trails from the Zoo entrance at Connecticut Avenue to Rock Creek to Klinge Road and then back to our starting point. The walk will be neither rocky nor muddy, but some parts will be rather steep. *The pace set on geology field trips is faster than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."*



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

## Winter Walks Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)  
Section A: January 10 - Carderock  
Section B: January 24 - Widewater  
Section C: February 7 - Swain's Lock  
Section D: March 7 - Pennyfield Lock  
Leader: Stephanie Mason  
Each walk: members \$24; nonmembers \$34  
Entire series \$87/\$123

**WAITLIST OPEN**

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

## Tour the Blue Plains Plant

Thursday, January 11 (10-11 am)  
Leader: Neal Fitzpatrick  
Free, but registration is required.

**FREE**

Join former ANS Executive Director Neal Fitzpatrick, and staff from D.C. Water for a tour of the largest wastewater treatment plant in the world. This plant has the capacity to treat 370 million gallons of sewage a day; the treated water is discharged into the Potomac River just north of Alexandria, VA. Learn about the 20-year capital improvement program worth \$7.8 billion at the facility. *Limited to 18 participants. Registration deadline: December 19.*

## Winter Hikes Along the River

A: Saturday, January 13 (full-day hike) Patuxent River, MD (4-5.5 mi)  
B: Sunday, February 4 (full-day hike) Potomac River, MD (5.6 mi)  
Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar  
Each hike members \$38; nonmembers \$52

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



## Winter Weeds Walk

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Winter Walk: Wednesday, January 17 (10 am-Noon)

Spring Walk: Wednesday, April 18 (10 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

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



Red Chokeberry

## Introduction to the Natural History of Lichens

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

Saturday, January 20 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Dr. Paula DePriest

Members \$42; nonmembers \$58

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

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

## Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill

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

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

Leader: Mark England

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

**WAITLIST  
OPEN**

You'll want to bundle up for these birding treks to the now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail, a familiar birding spot in upper Montgomery County. As afternoon fades to dusk in the open terrain here, we'll search for resident and overwintering species, including Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls.

## Conservation Cafes

Thursdays (7-8:30 pm)

Fee: \$10

January (date TBA): All about forests! Learn about the importance of forest ecology, and how the campaign to improve Maryland's Forest Conservation Act will take shape in the legislative session.

February (date TBA): Ronda Chapman, Executive Director of Groundwork DC, on what urban community-led conservation looks like in Washington, DC.

March 1: Mike Tidwell, Executive Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, on fighting climate pollution at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

Enjoy a fun evening, learn about conservation topics, and support ANS! Join us in the Woodend mansion for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on a variety of nature conservation topics. Your \$10 registration fee goes to support our ANS Conservation Program. **See detailed descriptions, final date announcements, and register at [www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe](http://www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe).**

## Winter Waterfowl Prowl

Sunday, January 28 (8 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Early in the year is the best time to search for and learn to ID overwintering waterfowl in our area. Basing our search at wetlands and waterways relatively close-in to the metro area, we'll visit sites in or near the District, Northern Virginia, or Montgomery County. Our exact locations will be determined closer to the date of the field trip, based on our leader's scouting expeditions. While our focus will be waterfowl, we'll keep an eye open for all birdlife. All levels of birders welcome.

## Fridays at Carderock

Section A: February 2 (10 am-3 pm)

Section B: March 9 (10 am-3 pm)

Section C: April 6 (9:30 am-3 pm)

Section D: May 4 (9:30 am-3 pm)

Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Entire series \$123; nonmembers \$173

An elder of a Native American tribe from the Pacific Northwest advised: *There is more to be learned by climbing the same mountain a hundred times than by climbing a hundred different mountains.* Following this admonition, our Senior Naturalist continues our series of broad-based nature explorations along the Potomac River's C&O Canal and its varied habitats, from upland rocky woods to rich floodplain forests. Our "searching for spring" hikes will return each month to a stretch of towpath from the Carderock Recreation Area upriver to Widewater. We'll retrace our steps along the Canal back to Carderock for a total of around 4 miles. We'll experience the winter world in February, and celebrate the first signs of spring in March. In April and May, we'll enjoy spring's great burst of new life, both in the plant world and amongst all manner of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals.

## Winter Tree Identification

Friday, February 9 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Using the clues of buds, twigs, bark, and fruit, we'll practice identifying trees in winter in this half day workshop at our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. We'll begin inside with a look at techniques of winter tree identification and then move outside to use our new skills to identify many species of woody plants that grow on the Woodend grounds.

## Night Gliders

Saturday, February 10 (5:30-7 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

In many woodlands they outnumber our common gray squirrel, yet flying squirrels remain mysterious mammals seldom encountered by diurnal creatures, such as ourselves. Join us for a walk to observe their nocturnal activities, followed by a slide discussion of flying squirrels' natural history. The program will be conducted on our Woodend grounds where staff have hung flying squirrel nesting boxes, as well as a feeding platform.

## Winter Birds of the Coast

Saturday, February 17 (9:30 am-5:30 pm)

Leaders: John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper

Members \$36; nonmembers \$50

Bundle up and enjoy Ocean City, MD, without the crowds while we learn to identify birds that winter in and along the mid-Atlantic coast. Here and at other locations, including Cape Henlopen and Broadkill Marsh, we'll look for loons, sea ducks, raptors, and winter songbirds. We'll hope to find, identify, and discuss the natural history of birds such as the Red-throated Loon, Harlequin Duck, Northern Gannet, and Snow Bunting. This field trip is aimed at beginning and mid-level birders, but all are welcome. Our meeting point is about a 3-hour drive from Woodend.

## President's Day Hike on the Canal: Swain's Lock to Great Falls Loop

Monday, February 19 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Got the day off? Join us for our annual, mid-February holiday hike. This year, we'll head downriver along the C&O Canal towpath from Swain's Lock to Great Falls to enjoy views from the islands, made accessible by boardwalks. We'll retrace our steps along the towpath back to our cars at Swain's Lock for a total hike of 4.6 miles. As we pass by floodplain forests and wetlands, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for winter birds and other active wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills.

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



Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Dec 1	12:30 pm	Preschool Open House		10	Feb 19	10 am	Presidents' Day Hike on the Canal	Y	15
Dec 2	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		21	Feb 22	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID D	Y	22
"	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill A	Y	12	Feb 24	10 am	Winter Tree Walk at Boundary Bridge	Y	18
"	9 am	Late Autumn Tree Walk on TR Island	Y	12	Feb 25	8 am	Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
"	"	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8	"	full day	Dorchester County Waterfront	Y	18
"	9:30 am	Preschool Open House		10	Feb 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	4 pm	Holiday Campfire and Craft	Y	8	"	all day	Taking Nature Black		5
Dec 3	8 am	Huntley Meadows bird walk	Y	23	Mar 1	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID E	Y	22
"	10 am	NHS: Gettysburg National Park	Y	12	"	"	Conservation Cafe	Y	6
Dec 5	10 am	Tales and Trails starts	Y	8	Mar 3	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		21
"	10 am	Watershed Walk Along Richmond Highway		6	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9
"	12 pm	Geology of Holmes Run Gorge	Y	12	Mar 4	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill D	Y	12
Dec 10	8 am	Birding Hotspots in Loudoun County	Y	13	Mar 7	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal D	Y	13
Dec 20	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	"	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
Jan 6	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		21	Mar 8	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8	Mar 9	10 am	Fridays at Carderock B	Y	15
"	10 am	Winter at Widewater	Y	13	Mar 10	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		21
"	1 pm	Geology at the National Zoo	Y	13	"	"	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23
Jan 7	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill B	Y	12	"	9:30 am	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 10	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal A	Y	13	"	5:15 pm	Night Gliders	Y	18
Jan 11	10 am	Tour the Blue Plains Plant		13	Mar 13	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
Jan 12	10 am	Fresh Air Kids begins	Y	11	Mar 15	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
Jan 13	full day	Winter Hike Along the River A	Y	13	"	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology B	Y	22
"	10 am	National Arboretum bird walk		23	"	"	How Geology Affects Plants		18
Jan 14	2 pm	Winter Weeds Walk	Y	14	Mar 17	full day	Late Winter Birding in Howard County	Y	19
Jan 17	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	14	"	8 am	Natural Heritage Weekend: Chincoteague	Y	19
Jan 18	7:30 pm	Intro to the Natural History of Lichens	Y	14	"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		21



Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jan 20	9:30 am	Preschool Open House		10	"	9 am	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges		18
Jan 21	8 am	Piscataway Park bird walk		23	Mar 17	9:30 am	Field Workshop - Ten Mile Creek	Y	22
"	3 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	14	Mar 18	2 pm	Equinox Hike at Governor's Bridge	Y	19
Jan 22	7 pm	Winter Bird Life begins	Y	24	Mar 22	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	19
Jan 23	7 pm	Animal Behavior begins	Y	24	Mar 24	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		23
"	"	U.S. Conservation History begins	Y	24	Mar 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		12
Jan 24	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal B	Y	13	"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal A	Y	19
"	6 pm	Land-Use Principles begins	Y	25	Mar 30	9 am	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	Y	19
"	6:45 pm	Human Ecology begins	Y	25	Mar 31	7 am	Spring Early Birds A	Y	20
Jan 25	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology A	Y	22	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		23
Jan 28	8 am	Winter Waterfowl Prowl	Y	15	"	"	Spring in the Parks A	Y	20
Jan 31	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	<p style="text-align: center;">Did you know? When you shop at the Audubon Naturalist Shop you support ANS's Conservation and Environmental Education mission work. Visit <a href="http://anshome.org/naturalist-shop">anshome.org/naturalist-shop</a> for more info.</p>				
Feb 1	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID A	Y	22					
Feb 2	10 am	Fridays at Carderock A	Y	15					
Feb 3	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		21					
"	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill C	Y	12					
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9					
"	9:30 am	Preschool Open House		10					
Feb 4	full day	Winter Hike Along the River B	Y	13					
Feb 7	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal	Y	13					
Feb 8	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID B	Y	22					
Feb 9	10 am	Winter Tree ID	Y	15					
Feb 10	5:30 pm	Night Gliders	Y	15					
Feb 11	8 am	Riley's Lock bird walk		23					
"	3:30 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	14					
Feb 15	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID C	Y	22					
Feb 17	9:30 am	Winter Birds of the Coast	Y	15					

- Special Event
- Children and Family Program
- Adult Program
- Natural History Field Studies
- Rust (VA) Activities and Events

**Y = Fee-based program**

## A Year in Rock Creek Park

**A:** A Winter Tree Walk at Boundary Bridge, Saturday February 24 (10 am-2 pm)

**B:** Spring Wildflower and Budbreak Walk at Boundary Bridge, Saturday April 7 (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

**C:** Nearing the Solstice Nature Walk at Boundary Bridge, Saturday June 16 (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

**D:** Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park, Saturday November 3 (9:30 am-3:30 pm)

**Walk A: members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

**Walks B, C, and D: members \$34; nonmembers \$42**

Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of the award-winning book *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and the acclaimed *City of Trees*, will offer her twelfth year of popular nature walks in the country's oldest urban national park, created in 1890. On the winter tree walk, we will examine the twigs, buds, bark, and overall shapes of the park's floodplain and upland forest trees and shrubs as we look and listen for winter bird flocks and the rattling voice of a kingfisher. We will also search for the winter-flowering skunk cabbage. In April, we will witness the annual floral miracle of Virginia bluebells, spring beauties and trout lilies in the floodplain forest, and admire the leaves of tuliptree and American beech as they begin to spill from their buds. In June, we'll revisit the dense canopy of floodplain forest and upland woods of the Boundary Bridge area as we learn about and marvel over trees, late spring and early summer wildflowers and nesting birds. Autumn will find us hiking the Western Ridge and Valley Trails during peak fall foliage and fruiting season, stopping to study and admire oaks, maples, hickories and other species along the route. *The Boundary Bridge Walks will cover a 2.5 mile loop on natural surface trails with moderate uphill and downhill. The Fall Hike will traverse 4-6 miles, with uphill and downhill on natural surface trails which may be rocky and uneven.*

## Dorchester County Waterfront

**Sunday, February 25 (full-day field trip)**

**Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson**

**Members \$36; nonmembers \$50**

Here's another opportunity to wrap yourself in layers, stuff your pockets full of chocolate, and enjoy the richness of winter birding along waterways of the mid-Atlantic. Our two leaders will take you to some of their favorite spots, beginning at the Choptank River in Cambridge, MD and progressing to the Chesapeake Bay off Hooper's Island, with stops along the way. We'll look for a variety of birds including gulls, waterfowl, marsh birds, and raptors. All levels of birders are welcome

## Woodcock Watch

**Saturday, March 10 (5:15-7:15 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$25; nonmembers \$35**

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 a constant twittering, it circles, then plummets back to earth in a series of zigzag movements, wings whistling. 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.

## How Geology Affects Plants Near Great Falls

**FREE**

**Thursday, March 15 (7-9 pm)**

**Leader: Joe Marx**

**Free, but registration is required.**

The Potomac River corridor at and below Great Falls is remarkable for the diversity of its plant and animal habitats. Many essentially geological factors, such as bedrock, frequency of flooding, and type and depth of soil, create this patchwork of ecosystems. Geology leader Joe Marx will review some of the causes and effects responsible for the patterns of vegetation characteristic of this much-visited parkland in a lecture here at Woodend.

## Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch

**Saturday, March 17 (9 am-1 pm)**

**Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman**

**Free, but registration required.**

**FREE**

The Foundry Branch begins near the Tenley Metro Station and flows south into the Potomac River, just west of Georgetown. We will look at the natural features of the stream valley park and discuss long-term stormwater impacts and needed infrastructure rehabilitation, including an old DC Water sewer line. We will walk the watershed from north to south, looking at past problems and imagining the changes needed to restore water quality - a primary objective of the Clean Water Act. Reps of the National Park Service, DC Department of the Environment, and DC Water have been invited to join us. Participants can return to Tenley on a Wisconsin Avenue Metrobus and/or make plans for lunch in Georgetown.



## Natural Heritage Weekend: Chincoteague

Saturday, March 17 (8 am) to

Sunday, March 18 (2 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$116; nonmembers \$160

The southern end of Assateague Island, managed as the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, protects a great mix of coastal habitats - maritime forest, freshwater wetland, wild beach, and the open ocean - each of which support a different mix of birds. Nearby Chincoteague Island mixes natural habitats with a town offering lodging, restaurants, and other amenities. Late winter is an ideal time to see water birds in both salt and freshwater habitats, along with early spring migrants. We'll plan to stay out until dark on Saturday night to search for owls and displaying woodcock. Overnight options include motels, campgrounds, and B&Bs. Program fee covers expert leadership, but not refuge admission fee.

## Late Winter Birding in Howard County

Saturday, March 17 (full-day field trip)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members: \$36; nonmembers \$50

With winter winding down, we'll bundle up for one last foray to wetlands and woodlands to search for lingering winter waterfowl and other birds as well as some of the first returning migrants. We'll explore several parks and natural areas in Howard County, visiting spots seldom frequented on ANS field trips. Our day's exact itinerary will be determined closer to the date of our trip, based on weather, our leader's scouting, and the size of the group.

## Equinox Hike at Governor's Bridge Natural Area

Sunday, March 18 (2-6:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members: \$28; nonmembers \$38

Although no excuse is needed, we'll head outside today to welcome the official arrival of spring at the Governor's Bridge Natural Area near Bowie, MD. We'll explore up to a couple of miles on a meander through the meadow, woodland, and wetland habitats of this park adjacent to the Patuxent River. If conditions are right, we might spot our first butterfly of the season, our first raspy-voiced Eastern Phoebe of the season, and wet woods aglow with the blooms of Spicebush. We'll stay out until the set starts setting with the hope of hearing the voices of early-breeding frogs.

## Beginning Birding

Thursday, March 22 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, March 24 (8 am-2 pm)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34

If you're curious about birds and bird watching but don't know where to begin, this class is for you. No experience is required! At our evening lecture, we'll focus on the selection of field guides, binoculars, and other resources, and we'll discuss the basic techniques of birding finding and identification. The goal of our field trip, 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.

## Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: March 28 - Carderock

Section B: April 11 - Widewater

Section C: April 25 - Swain's Lock

Section D: May 9 - Riley's Lock

Section E: May 23 - Violettes Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Entire series \$113/\$158

Enjoy one or all of these leisurely walks along portions of the C&O Canal. The focus of our walks, each beginning from a different location, will be general natural history of the varied habitats along the Potomac River and the Canal. We'll proceed at a slow "naturalist's shuffle" pace as we watch spring unfold. We'll stop often to observe birds, wildflowers, butterflies, snakes, turtles, and whatever else we might find. Carpool from Woodend with the leader if you desire.

## Early Spring Wildflower Hike

Friday, March 30 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Beat the winter blues by joining this search for the earliest signs of 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. *Our field Studies Spring flower ID instructor leads this hike over some uneven, rocky and likely muddy natural surface trails on a roughly 2-mile walk.*



## Spring in the Parks

Saturdays (8 am-12:30 pm)

A: March 31 - Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA

B: April 21 - Rachel Carson Park, MD

C: May 12 - National Arboretum, DC

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Entire series: \$76; nonmembers \$103

Join our Senior Naturalist for these broad-based nature explorations of close-by parks rich in natural history. We'll walk between 2-3 miles in a search for spring wildflowers and seasonal wildlife activity, including birds, butterflies, and amphibians. Our first destination visits both upland and bottomland forest along the Potomac River, just outside the Beltway near Great Falls, VA. On our next expedition, we'll explore woods near the Hawlings River in mid-Montgomery County. As the pulse of spring change slows down and the woods stand green, we'll explore the Fern Valley section of the National Arboretum in the District of Columbia. *All of our trips include some uphill/downhill (steepest on walks A and B) on natural surface trails, which are likely to be muddy and possibly slippery this time of year.*

## Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

A. Saturday, March 31 – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (John Bjerke)

B. Saturday, April 14 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Mike Bowen)

C. Sunday, April 29 – Blue Mash, MD (Mark England)

D. Saturday, May 5 – Riverbend Park, VA (Mike Bowen)

E. Sunday, May 13 – Governor's Bridge, MD (Mark England)

F. Sunday, May 27 – Riley's Lock, MD (John Bjerke)

Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Entire series \$133; nonmembers \$185

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 the spring travelers, practice spotting them in the field, and attempt to learn the songs of many species. *Our trips include walking on natural surface trails, which may be muddy, slippery and uneven. Walk C will include some uphill/downhill walking.*

## A Year at Theodore Roosevelt Island

A: Budbreak and Spring Wildflower Walk, Wednesday, April 4 (10 am-2 pm)

B: Summer Kayaking Trip with Stephanie Mason, Wednesday, July 18 (10 am-1 pm)

C: Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, November 7 (10 am-2 pm)

D: Late Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, December 5 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Each walk: members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and *City of Trees*, for a year-long exploration of 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! In the early spring, we'll witness the miracle of budbreak among the island's remarkable trees and see the floodplain forest come alive with Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, trout lilies, and trilliums. During summer, ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason will join us for a kayaking trip around the island, launching from Key Bridge Boathouse on the Georgetown waterfront. We'll paddle under the island's graceful silver maples and sycamores, get close to the summer wildflowers along the shore, and watch herons, egrets, wood ducks and—hopefully—the noisy kingfisher! As a bonus, we'll be treated to stunning views of the Lincoln Memorial and the "City of Trees" on the horizon. Our fall tree walks will take us deep into the swamp and tidal inlet along the boardwalk where willows, bald-cypresses and cattails frame views of the city behind it. Melanie will share details of the island's fascinating history during this year-long exploration and we'll witness the ebb and flow of the Potomac tides along with the changing seasons. *Fee for trip B does not include canoe or kayak rental.*

## Introduction to Wildflower ID

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

Saturday, April 7 (9:30 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$48; nonmembers \$68

Lecture only members \$25; nonmembers \$35

In April, spring wildflowers in the Washington area are dazzling! We'll spend Thursday evening at Woodend discussing books, equipment, and terminology for beginning wildflower identification. On Saturday we'll travel to the Carderock area along the C&O Canal and explore several short trails between the Canal and the Potomac River. We'll practice using keys to identify wildflowers and look for Virginia bluebells, dutchman's breeches, twinleaf, toad trillium, and many other species. *Expect some rocky, uneven terrain on the field trip.*

## The Magic of Early Spring Woods

Sunday, April 8 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members: \$26; nonmembers \$36

A stroll through an early spring woods can be magical, with both the colors and forms of unfolding leaves and stems catching the eye. In bottomland woods, there's the added delight of spring wildflowers underfoot. Montgomery County's forest ecologist leads our walk at two spots along the Potomac where large trees and botanical lushness abound: the Monocacy Aqueduct, on the Montgomery/Frederick County line, and Dickerson Conservation Park, a bit downriver.

## Window into the World of Fungi

Thursday, April 12 (7-9:30 pm)

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Free, but registration required.

FREE

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

## Bluebells in the Bottomland

Friday, April 13 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Nothing could be finer than a stroll through the bottomlands along the Potomac River this time of year. Spring beauties, golden ragwort and Virginia bluebells add new color to the forest floor, while overhead, trees such as maples, elms, and cottonwood unspool their flowers and leaves. Our route, which is mostly level but could be muddy, will follow the River Trail from Great Falls, MD. We will move upriver along the floodplain and then return along the C&O Canal towpath for a total hike of around 2.5 miles.

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

Monthly walks December 2, January 6, and February 3. Weekly walks resume in March. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at [www.anshome.org/adults](http://www.anshome.org/adults).

## Geology Hike at Carderock

Saturday, April 14 (1-5:00 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

The Billy Goat Trail, along the Potomac River in Maryland below Great Falls, is popular for both outdoor exercise and natural history. The trail is in three discontinuous sections, however, and most people hike only the portion closest to the falls. Section C, where we will base our hike, is much less crowded and provides many viewpoints into the fascinating geologic story of our region. Landslides under an ancient sea, an ocean floor caught between colliding continents, floodplains from previous versions of the Potomac—all are visible in the rock exposures and sediment near Carderock Recreation Area, just outside the Beltway. Our hike of about 3 miles, will be moderately difficult, with patches of mud, bare rock and a few steep stretches. *Note: Our geology hikes move at a faster pace and cover greater distances than our usual naturalist's shuffle.*

Look for details on other spring programs at [ANShome.org/adults](http://ANShome.org/adults)

## The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

Sunday, April 15 (2-4:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

## Evening on the Canal

Friday, April 20 (6:45-8:45 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

## River Herring Return to Rock Creek

Saturday, April 21 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick & Bill Yeaman

FREE

## Spring in Your Step

Saturday, April 21 (4:30-6:30 pm)

Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves

FREE

## Earth Day Along the River

Sunday, April 22 (8 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

## Smitten by Frogs

Thursday, April 26 (7:30-9:30 pm) & Saturday, April 28 (7-9 pm)

Leader: Richard Schubert



# Stream Science


For 25 years, ANS has been teaching the natural history of aquatic ecology and training volunteer stream monitors who track the health of our region's streams. Learn from the experts: study stream science in our introductory classes, and you just might be inspired to become a stream monitor yourself! Our advanced classes are perfect for those interested in deepening their knowledge about biological stream monitoring and are taught by our Maryland Biological Stream Survey-certified instructor Cathy Wiss.

## Registration & Fee Information

Registration required: register online at [www.anshome.org/adults](http://www.anshome.org/adults). The classes are open to anyone 10 years and older. Except for Macro ID Review & Quiz, prices for all classes are \$15 Members/\$25 Nonmembers; waivers are available for existing monitors and students earning SSL credit—email [cathy.wiss@anshome.org](mailto:cathy.wiss@anshome.org) for details.

## Introduction to Stream Science\*

Healthy Stream Biology

Classroom Session Section A: Thursday,  January 25 (7-9:30 pm)

Classroom Session Section B: Thursday, March 15 (7-9:30 pm)

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD  
(Both Sections A & B cover the same material)

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

Field Workshop - Ten Mile Creek, Boyds, MD  
Saturday, March 17 (9:30 am-12 pm)

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

## How to Read Your Stream\*

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

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD 

Learn about the influence of land uses on streams, stream character and dynamics, bank erosion, bar formation, substrate composition, different velocity-depth regimes, and the importance of riffles and riparian vegetation. We will practice assessing stream habitat by using photographs of streams and the forms that monitors fill out in the field. This class is recommended for anyone who is interested in learning more about streams or who plans to participate in the ANS water quality monitoring program. Experienced monitors will find it a good refresher on habitat assessment.

## Advanced Series: Aquatic Insect Family ID

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD (7-9:30 pm)

Section A: Beetles, Megaloptera & Water Bugs, Thursday, February 1

Section B: Caddisflies & Aquatic Moths, Thursday, February 8

Section C: Dragonflies, Damselflies & True Flies, Thursday, February 15

Section D: Mayflies, Thursday, February 22

Section E: Stoneflies & Review, Thursday, March 1

Learn how to identify aquatic insects to the taxonomic level of family through this series of five classes. Identification to family level greatly enhances our understanding of stream ecology and the power of our monitoring data. These classes are great for fly fishermen, citizen science program or team leaders, aquatic resource biologists, and anyone interested in monitoring and understanding stream health.

## Macroinvertebrate ID Review & Quiz

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Section A: Thursday, March 8 (6:30-9 pm)

Section B: Saturday, March 10 (9:30-noon)  
(Sections A and B cover the same material)

No fee

Time to separate the mayflies from the stoneflies! Those who wish to be certified to identify macroinvertebrates in the field in ANS’s program must demonstrate their ability annually by taking a quiz using preserved specimens. Those who do not take the quiz may still be assigned to a monitoring team to assist with data collection and other field logistics, but only those who have taken and passed the quiz will identify macroinvertebrates for data recording.

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

# Free Birding Trips December-March

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

## DECEMBER

Sunday, December 3

Huntley Meadows, Fairfax County, VA

Half day. Wintering waterfowl and other winter residents, Bald Eagles a possibility. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot.

**Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Stephen Jones at srjones1111@aol.com or 301-320-3518.

Wednesday December 20

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

Half day. Songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and other raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am inside the refuge at central parking lot.

**Make reservation** (6-adult limit) with leader Jim Waggener, 703-567-3555.

## JANUARY

Saturday, January 13

National Arboretum, Washington, DC

One-third day. Winter and resident songbirds, raptors. **Meet time/place:** 10 am at park entrance on R Street just east of the intersection of R Street and Bladensburg Rd, NE. Trip may be postponed if bad weather. Check with leader. **Make reservation** with leader Paul Pisano, 703-685-3790 or cheep@allealle.com.

Sunday, January 21

Piscataway Park and Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's Co., MD

One-third day. Joint trip with SoMDA Audubon. Winter waterfowl and resident birds. Varied habitat of water, woods, farm fields, and edges provides a great variety of birds. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Burger King in the Food Lion Shopping Center (15785 Livingston Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607). No facilities. **Make reservation** (20-person limit) with leader Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or text 301-751-8097. Mark Rositol will co-lead.

Wednesday, January 31

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 20 listing for details.



## Christmas Bird Counts

Visit our Free Birding Trips webpage for a full listing of local (and some not so local!) Christmas Bird Counts, including:

- Saturday, December 16 (Washington, DC)
- Sunday, December 17 (Seneca, MD & VA)
- Thursday, December 28 (Central Loudoun, VA & MD)

## FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 11

Riley's Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co., MD

Half day. Winter residents, possible raptors and wintering ducks. Leaders will have scope for a view from the bridge at Riley's.

**Meet time/place:** 8 am at Riley's. **Make reservation** with leaders Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton, lpshannon@gmail.com.

Sunday, February 25

Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD

One-third day. Mixed habitat of water, fields, and edges with good variety of wintering species—sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot on Hughes Rd off River Rd. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net or 240-515-4517.

Wednesday, February 28

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 20 listing for details.

## MARCH

Wednesday, March 7, Tuesday, March 13, and Thursday, March 15

Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD  
Informal late afternoon bird walks until dusk

Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. **Meet time/place:** Meet promptly at 4:30 pm at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." We'll be checking out the river for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow. Highlights here include waterfowl flying into roost. We'll finish with displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope and flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. **Reservations not required**—all are welcome. For more info, call the leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036.

Saturday, March 10

Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince George's Co., MD

Half day. Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, winter and early spring songbirds. Ospreys displaying. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot by park hdqtrs. Wear muddy conditions footgear. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with John Bjerke at johnbjerke1@mac.com.

Wednesday, March 28

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 20 listing for details.



# Natural History Field Studies



This popular program, cosponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society and the Graduate School USA, provides a comprehensive and stimulating view of our region's natural history and conservation issues. Taught at the college freshman level, these courses are open to anyone 18 years of age or older, professionals and amateurs alike. A Certificate of Accomplishment is awarded for completion of a required curriculum of 39 Continuing Education Credits (CEUs).

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

## Winter Bird Life

**NATH7163E, 1.5 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: January 22-February 26, 2018**

**Field trip dates: February 3 and February 10**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$269**

**Instructor: Gemma Radko**

Woodland birds are easy to sight in winter when leaves are off deciduous trees, and waterfowl are numerous and easy to locate. Learn about avian winter survival strategies, how to attract overwintering birds, where to look for birds in winter, and the essential connection between waterfowl and the Chesapeake Bay. Two field trips will provide opportunities to identify and study winter birds and their behavior.

## Animal Behavior

**NATH 1151E, 2 credits or 3 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: January 23-March 27, 2018**

**Field trip dates: March 3 and one TBA**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Jane Huff**

Develop your skills in observing the behavior of animals while learning the basic concepts and theories of modern ethology. Learn the physical and physiological bases for the ways animals do things and the evolutionary and ecological contexts for what they do. Two field trips and examples drawn from familiar animals will help you understand what you see as you learn to recognize patterns of communication, aggression, social behavior and species interactions. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed.

*Congratulations to the 2017 awardees of the NHFS Certificate of Accomplishment: Paul Bielefeldt, Natalie Dickter, Charlotte Fremaux, Karen Gilbert, Colleen Marzec, Patty O'Malley, Helen Patton, Liz Schilder, Julianne Shinnick, and Julie Super.*

## U.S. Conservation History

**NATH8252E, 3 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: January 23-March 27, 2018**

**Field trip dates: February 10 Patuxent Research**

**Refuge; February 23, Aldo Leopold film screen-**

**ing at Woodend; March 3, Rachel Carson house in Silver Spring, MD;**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Jean Mansavage**

This course examines the development of environmental conservation thought and practice in the United States from the pre-colonial era through the early twenty-first century. The course also considers how land and natural resources have fundamentally shaped the lives of the country's inhabitants and, in parallel, how Americans' perceptions of the environment and its resources have shaped the natural world. Topics include human views of nature and wilderness; U.S. land dispersal policies; the creation of National Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Refuges; principal conservation policies from 1900-1964; and the environmental and ecology movements from 1960-2000s. Three field trips permit students to observe how past conservation efforts have given rise to our current-day programs.

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# Winter Courses January-March

## Human Ecology

NATH 8280E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6:45-9:15 pm

Course meetings: January 24-March 21, 2018

Field trip dates: February 17 and March 17

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Gogi Kalka

Although existing in habitats of their own design, humans cannot escape the biological and physical constraints on energy use, food production, population growth and interactions with other species. Applying ecological principles, students will examine our role in pressing environmental problems such as global climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation and learn to critically evaluate possible solutions. We will explore renewable energies, sustainable food systems and other inspiring global and local sustainability initiatives. There will be no class on March 14. Recommended prior course: Introduction to Ecology (NATH1160E), or equivalent.

## Land-Use Principles

NATH8255E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: January 24-March 28, 2018

Field trip dates: February 10, March 3 and March 17

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

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Land use planning decisions made in your community affect you every day: your decision to walk, drive or bike; the placement of parks and green space; your sense of place and connection to the past. Gain a working understanding of the legal and regulatory principles as well as the political forces at work in making land use decisions. Sustainable design and smart growth propose solutions to the tradeoffs between land and people, economic development and environmental protection. This course integrates aspects of ecosystems, conservation, and human ecology to explore how you can influence our existing and future built environment to fit into the natural environment. Field trips allow you to see how the principles and practices are being applied close to home.

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

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

### The Living Soil

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

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

### Reptiles and Amphibians

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

Instructor: Rachel Gauza

### Biology for Naturalists

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Paula Wang

### Spring Flower ID

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Sujata Roy

### Stream Ecology

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jai Cole

### Butterflies of Spring

**NEW**

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

Instructor: Rick Borchelt

## Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

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

Registration may be completed:

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

### BOOKSHOP OPEN!

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

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

## South Florida – Exploring the Dynamic Everglades

January 20-28, 2018

Leaders: Tom & Judy Gire; Paul Pisano

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

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

August 8-19, 2018

Leaders: Mark Garland and Jordan Rutter

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

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

February 16-March 3, 2018

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos "Charlie" Gomez

**WAITLIST**

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

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

September 13-22, 2018

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Mark England

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

## California's Coastal Diversity

March 17-24, 2018

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn & Rob Gibbs

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

### Looking Ahead to 2018-2019

- **Australia**
- **Tanzania**
- **Galapagos**
- **Panama**
- **Costa Rica**
- **Various destinations here in the U.S.**



Photo by Susan Blaha

# Save the Dates

Art Exhibit at  
Woodend Nature Sanctuary  
March 1 – 7, 2018

## Balance & Imbalance

*A Celebration of Nature  
and a Call to Action*

by Marnie Sinclair

*"During my research on climate change, I felt such despair that sometimes I couldn't go on. I needed balance. So I decided to focus on the magic in nature."*

- Marnie Sinclair

Friday, March 2

Opening Reception

Other Events

Conservation Café | Art Auction/Sale  
Tea with the Executive Director



## Thanks for Joining Us!

# 2017 ANS ANNUAL MEETING

### A tale of environmental protection and education dreams that do come true

On October 19, ANS celebrated its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the following special people and groups that make its mission work possible (as noted by Executive Director Lisa Alexander).

- Outgoing Board President Leslie Catherwood, and our other departing Board members: Paul D'Andrea, Allyn Finegold, Mike Gravitz, and Jennifer Judd Hinrichs.
- Marcia Sward Environmental Educator Award Recipient Bill Kraegel (See YouTube or Facebook video), for providing more than 40 years of outstanding environmental education in MCPS.
- Our own Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason received the Rocky Mountain National Park Citizen Science Award for her 20 years of volunteer research on Rocky Mountain butterflies.
- Long-time member and volunteer, Marney Bruce, who received a Bethesda Magazine Green Award for her volunteer stewardship of native plant communities in our region.
- Attorney Don Mitchell from Arent Fox, LLC, our Volunteer of the Year. Don and his colleagues donated \$150,000 worth of legal expertise to defend ANS from the First Amendment infringement the Pulte Development case subpoena would have wrought.
- The Natural History Field Studies graduating class of 2017.
- ANS's Water Quality Coordinator Cathy Wiss and our volunteer citizen scientists. The 24 monitors who served more than 20 years were given special recognition.
- The Meadow Team for initiating and nurturing our first full-scale meadow restoration.
- Incoming Board President Scott Fosler.

Our deepest appreciation to Juliet Eilperin, Senior National Affairs Correspondent for *The Washington Post*, our delightful keynote speaker.

Thank you to Putting on the Ritz Catering, who provided a delicious catered dinner, Ikona Photography, who took photos of the event, and American Plant, who supplied fall decorations.

Learn more about our accomplishments in the FY17 Annual Report at [www.anshome.org/annual-reports/](http://www.anshome.org/annual-reports/) and see more photos at [www.anshome.org/photo-gallery](http://www.anshome.org/photo-gallery).



Keynote Speaker Juliet Eilperin, Senior National Affairs Correspondent for *The Washington Post*

Photo by Ikona Photography



Natural History Field Studies graduates (l to r): Patty O'Malley, Colleen Marzec, Liz Schilder, Natalie Dickter, and Helen Patton

Photo by Ikona Photography



Longtime ANS Members Kathy Stell and Louise Lees, First Executive Director of ANS Gerry Schneider, and Director of Development Jacky Wershvale

Photo by Ikona Photography

Photo by Ikona Photography



Board Member Wendy Anderson, Board President Scott Fosler, and Board Member Larry Wiseman



Photo by Ikona Photography

ANS Member Anne James, Andrea Mitchell, Departing Board Member Mike Gravitz, and Volunteer of the Year Attorney Don Mitchell

Photo by Ikona Photography



Former ANS Executive Director Neal Fitzpatrick, Departing Board Member Paul D'Andrea, and Former Board Member and President Lee Babcock



Photo by Kim Goddu

Bethesda Green Executive Director Veronique Marier, ANS Volunteer and Green Award Runner-Up Marney Bruce, and Bethesda Green Magazine Publisher Steve Hull

Photo by Ben Israel



Water Quality Monitors Susan Dunnell, Susan Schober, and Frank Sanford



Photo by Caroline Brewer

Meadow Volunteers (l to r) Pearl Marks, son of Noriko Aita, Susan Schober, daughter of Noriko Aita, Noriko Aita, and Gail Melson



## A Great Gift for ANS Members: Free Estate Planning Advice from attorney and ANS member, Tom Donohue

By Jacky Wershbale

Two years ago, I finally did something that I had been meaning to do for ages. I made a Will. It had been getting shoved to the end of my "to do" list for too long, so I put it back at the top, found myself an attorney and got it done. I cannot tell you how much peace of mind it gives me knowing that I have put everything in order for my children when I eventually shuffle off this mortal coil – hopefully many, many years from now.

Having gone through the process I know that estate planning takes a lot of thought, a little bit of paperwork and a few signatures, which is why I was so delighted when ANS member Tom Donohue offered **free estate planning advisory sessions** to members of Audubon Naturalist Society.



Photo by Ben Israel

Tom has been a practicing attorney for over 35 years and previously was a practicing certified public accountant. He has been advising clients about tax and estate planning for decades. *"I'm constantly surprised by how many people never make a Will," Tom told me recently. "It is such a mistake and may lead to considerable and unnecessary complications for their family and other heirs."*

**Tom has offered to advise ANS members as his way of volunteering his professional services to ANS.** Tom's generous gift to us will also address the stresses caused when a loved one passes away without formalizing wishes for their estate.

Tom is happy to meet with ANS members at his Rockville office or at Woodend. If you're interested in knowing more about making a Will or how to update your Will – Tom is your man. Just contact me at [jacky.wershbale@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershbale@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x31 and I'll forward your meeting request to Tom.

Tom will not be representing ANS at these meetings, nor will he solicit on our behalf. Tom is merely offering his professional expertise to fellow ANS members. Thank you, Tom!

### 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.

## MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS August - October 2017

### In memory of James Anderson

Wendy Anderson

### In memory of Drewry Cromwell

Sheila Cochran; Virginia Paige; The Acorn Garden Club

### In memory of Mary Veronica Davies

Linda Dawkins

### In memory of Susanna Feder

Hana Hirschfeld; Peter Hirschfeld; Marion Mudd; Janet Palmer; Barbara Sonnino

### In memory of Zane Vincent Kortum

Jane Johnston

### In memory of Jim Pion

Steven Salant

### In memory of Emma Shelton

Tom Donohue; Mary Louise Millar & Charles Millar

### In memory of Harriet "Heidi" Shinn

Capital Results; Susan Hunt; Susan Metsala; Mr. & Mrs. William M. Offutt

### In memory of Cheryl Corbin Tartakoff

Brenda & Tom Corbin

### In memory of Jane Winer

Fran Keenan

### In honor of Susan Chandler

Susan Levine

### In honor of Reece Flexner

Katie Riggs

### In honor of Naomi Miller

David & Marcia Holden

### In honor of Rebecca Turner

Cara Boucher; Joan & Ralph Turner

## QUALIFIED DISTRIBUTION FROM AN IRA\*

As you consider your year-end giving, keep in mind that you can make a gift to ANS from your IRA. These gifts may help lower your adjusted gross income and count towards your Required Minimum Distribution.

All you do is instruct your IRA administrator to make a transfer from the IRA directly to Audubon Naturalist Society. Most administrators already have forms and procedures in place to make this transfer.

For more information about these gifts, go to: [www.anshome.org/support](http://www.anshome.org/support) or contact Jacky Wershbale at [jacky.wershbale@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershbale@anshome.org).

\*ANS does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax advisors before engaging in any transaction.

## Congratulations to our 2017-2018 Volunteer Master Naturalist Class!



Standing from left to right: Judy Taylor, Helen Patton, Brant Goldwyn, Frank Calvo, Barbara Henderson, Rachel Taylor, Liz Wagner, Scott Lynch, Christine Morano-Magee, Emily Glaeser, Chrissie Fichter, Pia Iolster, Natalie Dickter.

Below: Angela Gildner, Mitch Greene, Maura McMullen, Jamie Edelman, and Ali Claypoole.

Not pictured: Janet Stotsky, Marco Torrico and Orietta Estrada.

Visit our website at <https://anshome.org/master-naturalist> early next year for information on how to apply to next year's class.



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

### Support ANS – Monthly!

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

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Education programs are held at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society's 40-acre Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, unless otherwise noted. All education programs except Nature Travel have online registration. You may also register in person in the EE office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. You will be notified immediately if the program is full; otherwise, confirmation letters will be emailed 1-2 weeks before the scheduled program.

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

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

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

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



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## Become a champion of nature with a special year-end gift!

Throughout its 120-year history, ANS has made a huge mark on the local environment of the D.C. metro region by preserving special places, protecting clean water and educating nature stewards for generations to come.

But this is only possible with the help of members like you.

As we enter the season of giving, please give where you live and become a **champion of nature**. Whether you can send \$25, \$50, \$100 or even \$500, it will be put to immediate use in our environmental education and conservation work.

**With your generous support**, ANS will continue to defend local habitats, protect our streams, connect low-income children with nature at our sanctuaries, and teach people (of all ages!) about the natural world right here at home. We hope to raise \$50,000 before December 31st. Please help us reach our goal with a special 120th anniversary year-end gift today.

You can donate online at [anshome.org/give](http://anshome.org/give). Thank you.



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