

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Summer 2017

ANSHOME.ORG



Why ANS?

Because
together we
ensure the
environment
has a future



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

GROUNDWORKS 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

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Conservation, VA 571-278-5535

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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Cathy Wiss

RENTALS

Beatriz Engel

NATURALIST QUARTERLY

ANShome.org Summer 2017

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COVER Elise Matney, former ANS preschooler, examines insects. See page 4 for a testimonial from her parents, Ryan and Lauren Matney, on the impact of the ANS Nature Preschool on their two children.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING CLASSES

Water Quality Monitoring classes are on hiatus during the summer. Please see our Autumn issue, coming out in late August, for a schedule of classes in the fall.

Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

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



ANS was recertified as one of the "finest smaller charities Greater Washington has to offer" by the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

From the Director

Why ANS? A question for the generations

As I reflect on our 120th anniversary celebration and the #ANS120 campaign, my answer to the question “Why ANS?” keeps changing. This spring, I now answer, “For the generations ANS has served and will serve.” Since our launch in 1897, think about how many generations of people ANS has connected to the natural world through education and advocacy!



Gratitude for the ANS legacy of generations past

In my own life, as perhaps in yours, ANS has left an imprint on many ages and stages. In 1983, as a young college graduate and ANS intern, once every two weeks I traveled by bus to the Chesire Cat children's book store on Connecticut Avenue in DC to review children's nature books for the *ANS Naturalist News*. Imagine my joy, 30 years later, when I discovered that my new friend and ANS's oldest member, Lola Oberman, had been writing for the *Naturalist News* at the same time! Lola's *Notes from Melody Lane* were beloved by ANS members of all ages, and there is no doubt (as her publishing career bore out) that she was a much better writer than I! How fortunate I was that ANS allowed me to write alongside one of the great nature writers of our time. I miss Lola who passed away at age 100 earlier this year and the Chesire Cat Bookstore gone for two decades now.

Our New Website

Have you checked out our website lately? Please do. It's all new – just for you. During Earth Week, ANS launched a more visually compelling, easier to use and search website, with an opportunity for you to share your stories and photos at www.anshome.org. We're still making improvements, so please don't be shy about telling us what you think. Send your comments to caroline.brewer@anshome.org.

Celebrating ANS, 120 years, and you!

ANS members and supporters, you have been our past. You are the reason we have a present –and can bank on a future. That's why we're asking you to join our #ANS120 celebration to be more social and answer for family members and friends: Why ANS?

Is it for the blue jays or the bluebells or the butterflies?
Is it for the children? Your children or your children's children?
Is it to speak for the trees or to hear the wind whisper to you?
Is it to do the right thing for our planet?
Or to do something good for yourself?

Why ANS?

Join us online and tell your story with words, photos, and videos, via email, Facebook and Twitter. We use the hashtag #ANS120. Also, look for our posts – like, comment, and share. www.anshome.org/ans-toolkit has more about how to participate. Thank you so much!

Future generations have a future with ANS

Today, when I see our Audubon Nature Preschoolers and Summer Campers running through the 40 acres at Woodend or the Fresh Air Kids exploring at Rust, I'm reminded of my own sons when they were young. I take great pride in announcing that ANS has been awarded a bond bill by the state of Maryland to begin the process of installing an accessible trail at Woodend. Think about the generations of families with strollers, elders and veterans who will be able to enjoy the respite of nature thanks to a trail that makes recharging in nature possible for all.

When I stepped into the role of ANS Executive Director just three years ago, I helped lead an advocacy campaign for the first time in my professional career. What a joy it was to work with 30 partner organizations to secure victory and protect Ten Mile Creek (see an update on that nasty Pulte subpoena on page 29).

Through the Save Ten Mile Creek campaign, I learned just how fiercely ANS members will protect the natural world. My heart sang, despite my frozen fingers and toes, when so many ANS members of all ages, including one small corgi puppy, joined ANS at the Science March. Did you know that it was my mom who suggested using wildlife whirligigs to signal and gather our forces? Talk about the generations pulling together! We made quite a splash (see page 29) as we proudly marched in defense of environmental policy decisions based on sound science.

Do tell, Why ANS?, for you

Please share your “Why ANS?” stories on the gorgeous new ANS web site at www.anshome.org and on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Sign up for our action alerts so you can speak up in defense of nature. Help us reach our goal of signing up 120 new monthly members! Let's highlight how the good work of ANS has inspired people to love and protect nature through the generations. Together, we'll ensure that ANS continues to teach about, restore and protect the natural world for today, tomorrow and the future!

STAFF UPDATES: We welcome **Lin Orrin**, who has over 20 years of experience in grant writing and nonprofit development, and began her career as a journalist. She studied business and pre-med at Eastern Michigan University and Wayne State University, and holds a Certificate of Theological Studies from the Graduate Theological Union/Pacific School of Religion. She is a hiker and nature photographer, and long-time advocate for the environment.

ANS Needs You!

BOARD MEMBERS Audubon Naturalist Society is looking for a few good leaders. If you are passionate about the ANS mission, can contribute to building the network of ANS supporters around the region, and would like to participate in strategic planning for the future of the organization, please consider service on our Board of Directors. Contact pam.oves@anshome.org if you are interested in Board Service.

Why ANS?

Because together we ensure the environment has a future

For 10 years now, the Audubon Nature Preschool has built on children's inherent curiosity about the world by educating with hands-on, nature-based activities. Climbing trees, building bridges across the creek, crafting fairy homes, crawling through logs, catching and releasing turtles, frogs and insects, and creating art in nature are daily experiences that bolster our children's imaginations, confidence, resiliency and bravery. We're looking forward to the next 10 years of great adventure, hope you'll be there with us, and appreciate what our legacy families have to say.

AUDUBON NATURE PRESCHOOL



What I especially love about (the preschool) is that the teachers know (the children) as individuals and respect who they are as individuals. Nicholas, who is now almost 13, came out of the preschool being a really strong advocate for preservation of the natural world. Morgan is the one who really loves animals. Dylan is really into birds. He comes home from school and tells us what bird is flying around. They become explorers right along with the teachers. It's empowering.

Nancy Shipman, wife of Robert Shipman (pictured above with Dylan), ANS member who joined because of her grandchildren

It's always been a wonderful place. I love the teachers, the sanctuary, the fact that they can go to so many places. Teachers focus on building social relations, navigating conflict, building connections with each other. I recommend the school, especially to parents in DC. I always thought it was worth it because it was such a unique experience.

Alex Rackoff, mother of Nicholas, Morgan, and Dylan (pictured right), current and former ANS students



Our whole family loves ANP! When we first moved to this area, our older son spent a year there. Now our younger son is in his second year at the school. Both of our kids have benefited tremendously from the learning-rich environment and play-centered atmosphere at the school. ANP helped instill confidence in both our kids, encouraged them to explore the world, and taught them to love nature. We are so grateful for the time our kids have spent there and we recommend the school to everyone!

Airen Hall, mother of Asher, a preschooler, pictured right

Audubon Nature Preschool created a strong educational base for our children and also enriched our experience as new parents. The school instilled a love and appreciation for nature and a sense of environmental responsibility that remains with our children today. ANP is a warm and nurturing school with highly qualified educators and kids thrive exploring the idyllic 40-acre outdoor campus. Our kids couldn't wait to go to school every day. A group of loving teachers guides the social and emotional development of each child through mindfulness exploration and an emphasis on being good community members. Leighton and Elise both had a seamless transition to Sidwell Friends School and our whole family feels very fortunate to remain connected to lifelong ANP friends.

Lauren and Ryan Matney, parents of Leighton and Elise (on the cover)



Introducing *Voices from the Natural World*: Our celebration of 120 years of promoting environmental stewardship is possible only because of you. So we dedicate these pages to you – and the ANS members, supporters, and partners you represent. Thank you for sharing your thoughts, ideas, passion, and energy with us in behalf of all good things for the natural world. We hope to see you again real soon. Enjoy!

ADULT PROGRAMS

NATURE FIELD TRIPS



Photo by Allen Browne

Our field trip to Swain's Lock was delightfully full of spring life. Also, (Stephanie Mason's) patience in ensuring that all participants experience each particular species (be it plant, bird, snake, etc) continues to inspire awe.

M. Nester

NATURE TRAVEL



Why did I decide to travel with ANS? The beauty and lure of Costa Rica, the experience of the leaders, and the reputation that prior ANS trips with them had created...all fully validated.

Powell Hutton

5

VOLUNTEER MASTER NATURALIST



Taking the Master Naturalist training is one of the best things that I have done as an adult. I knew going into it that I would learn a lot, but I had no idea how much. Each class opened up new horizons for me, encouraging further learning on the subject at hand.

Patricia Mackey, 2016 Master Naturalist graduate

NATURAL HISTORY FIELD STUDIES



Photo by Dirk Harris

Simply put, taking courses through the NHFS program has enriched my life with learning, friendship and fun! I have found wonderful nature mentors and friends. I expect my association with the Audubon Naturalist Society to be a lifelong source of outdoor learning and fun!

Kate Maynor

CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION CAFÉ



Why ANS? Audubon Naturalist Society is one of those entities that fosters a culture of environmental stewardship. Understanding science helps us understand the world, and most importantly, ourselves. I am proud of the work that ANS is doing to create space for learning and growth, and for its dedication to advocacy for preserving natural spaces.

Sarah L. Anderson, Conservation Café Speaker, Founder and CEO, Lillie Leaf Solutions

PARTNERS



Audubon Naturalist Society is a critical partner and strategic ally fighting for clean water for the DC metro region and working tirelessly to strengthen and enforce our clean water laws. Rallying local voices of every age and background to advocate for nature, ANS is leading the charge for healthy forests, streams, and communities for all.

Caitlin Wall, Policy Director, Potomac Conservancy

WATER QUALITY MONITORING



I find it fascinating to know that you can find macroinvertebrates in the streams and that there's this whole world living there. I love being outside and learning, and I feel like a kid playing in the water. I walk along the northwest branch a lot and I can see how urbanization takes its toll on our water supply. I'm happy to make a contribution (to ANS and nature) by providing data that address this issue of stream health.

Susan Schober – pictured in the middle

CREEK CRITTERS



The (Creek Critters) app is very user friendly, with easy to follow instructions. Because it gives a lot of visual clues, it's a great tool for first-time monitors as they try to identify the various aquatic invertebrate species.

Dan Schwartz, Soil Scientist for the NOVA Soil & Water Conservation District

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

MEMBERS



The value of all things, especially our natural environment, depends on our use of them. Every day the Audubon Naturalist Society provides opportunities to enjoy and protect our natural heritage regardless of who you are, where you live or your station in life.

Marcus Pollock, ANS member

RUST NATURE SANCTUARY



Under Susanne Ortmann's wing, the four-year-olds have taken seasonal nature hikes in our school's backyard, learned how to use tools to observe nature, and documented information about the environment in their individual journals. For the past five years, our children have benefited from Susanne's own enthusiasm and her knowledge about local flora and fauna. The Audubon Naturalist Society's program is a gift to children who might otherwise not have opportunities to engage with the natural world in their everyday lives.

Wendy Monroe, LCPS Head Start Teacher

DONORS



ANS is my second home! After retiring, I looked for a place to volunteer where I could contribute to environmental conservation, enjoy my love of nature, and use my technical skills at the same time. ANS has provided such an opportunity for more than five years. My volunteer experience includes ANS website support, Master Naturalist Volunteer training, ANS Shop assistance, water quality monitoring, Crowder-Messersmith team membership, and special event activities. And, I have been able to volunteer in all these areas despite being physically disabled! I feel that ANS has allowed me to share in so many ways in their important contributions to the environment. As a result, I made the decision to leave a bequest to them in my will.

Karen Wilhelm, Volunteer and Donor

SALAD SCIENCE



Both children and teachers loved the Salad Science lessons. They were perfectly targeted for our young learners to notice how much rain the salad had gotten, how insects help/hurt the lettuce, how turtles like lettuce, and so much more. It was all so fun! Thank you again for all of your work with us! We would love to work more with you again!"

Natalie B., PreK Teacher

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!

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/birthday



Email carol.hayes@anshome.org
for more information or call
301-652-8188 x10.

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.

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.



SUMMER NATURE CAMP Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Capon Bridge, WV

SENIOR PROGRAM (Ages 11-15)

55th Season

Session 1: Sunday, June 25-Saturday, July 8 **FULL**

Session 2: Tuesday, July 11-Tuesday, July 25

Session 3: Wednesday, August 2-Tuesday, August 15

JUNIOR PROGRAM (Ages 8-10)

One week ♦ August 20-26



Hike, swim, and hunt for birds, butterflies and salamanders in the WV mountains.

Active days filled with games, arts and laughter.

American Camping Association Accredited.

ADULT WEEKEND (Ages 21+) ♦ \$235/\$415

Friday, July 28-Sunday, July 30

Why should only children get to go to camp? Enjoy a weekend in the cool green mountain woods of West Virginia!

Roam the ridges Taste wild edibles Learn bird songs

Leaf print your T-shirt Sketch by the stream

Knowledgeable staff, delicious food, beautiful surroundings

FOR MORE INFORMATION

michelem@burgundyfarm.org ♦ burgundycenter.org ♦ 703-842-0470

Summer Camp Spots Still Available!

Summer is almost here!! If you are still looking for camps to send your child to then we can help. Below is a list of the camps that still have open spaces.

Pre-K/K PM – 1-4 pm camps

1st/2nd grade – Extreme Animals (week of 7/31), Soil Sleuths (week of 7/3, only 2 spots left!), Wild at Heart (week of 7/31, only 2 spots left!)

3rd/4th grade – Can You Dig It and Talons and Teeth (week of 6/19), Spanish Immersion (week of 7/17, do not have to know any Spanish), Slither and Slime (week of 7/24), Radical Reptiles (week of 8/7), and Insectigations (week of 8/14)

5th/6th grade – Nature Engineers (week of 6/19)

7th/8th/9th grade – Beginning Backpacking (week of 7/10)

9th/10th/11th – Conservation Corps (week of 6/26, earn 30 SSL hours) and Advanced Backpacking (week of 7/17)

Are you looking for something for your teenager to do this summer? Sign them up for our Teen Naturalist Training Program! It is a three-week long program where your child will volunteer in our summer camp plus get hands-on lessons in natural history, restoration work, and outdoor group leadership skills all while earning 100 SSL hours!

Please register online for all camps at www.anshome.org/summer-camps. Questions about registration? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

Shop Hours during Summer Camp

The Naturalist Shop will be open at 8 am on Mondays during summer camp. While you wait for check-in, you can peruse our shop for any forgotten items like water bottles or sunscreen or pick up a nature gift or birdseed.

Summer Camp Open House

Saturday, June 10 (10 am-12 pm)

Please RSVP to nora.kelly@anshome.org

New to Camp Audubon or just feeling anxious about the summer? Then come to our free open house and learn about what makes Camp Audubon so special!

- 10-10:15 am Meet June Bug, the Camp Director
- 10:15-10:45 am Check-in process and tour of mansion
- 10:45-11:30 am Pick-up process and tour of grounds
- 11:30 am-12 pm Questions/Concerns



Children's Garden Open House

Saturday, June 10 (10 am-12 pm)

FREE! No RSVP necessary.

Come see where campers and pre-schoolers learn about gardening, harvesting food, and making recipes to enjoy and share. See a pizza garden, a pickle garden, and a 3 sisters garden. We'll even have a bug zoo!

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions and give tours of the garden. Donations welcome. The Children's Garden is located near the side parking lot of the mansion. Questions? Email jenny.brown@anshome.org.



Tales and Trails

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver
Tuesdays, September 12-
November 14 (10 weeks)
Fall Session: \$75 per child

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

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



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

APPLY ONLINE

ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL

Drop-off Programs

Saplings

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

Oaks

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

Parent and Child Programs

Acorns

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

Sprouts

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

Donate Now to Support Our Work

You can help us educate and inspire through nature with your donation to the Preschool Legacy Fund. Go to anshome.org/donate 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

Fresh Air Kids – Two Locations!

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

Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg ,VA

Fridays (10-11:30 am)

September 22-November 10

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

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

Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA

Mondays (10-11 am)

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

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

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



Environmental Science Field Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

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

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

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

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

Astonishing Earth Hike

A fall walk open to all ages at Rust

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

Cost: \$7.50 per person, includes hot cider

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

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



Photo by Karen Steffel

Adult Programs

Wild places are closer than you think. ®

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.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adults and click on "Register Online."
- 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.

Natural Heritage Series: Elliott Island

Saturday, June 3 (2:30-11 pm)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Extensive wetlands border the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and the marshes near Vienna, MD are diverse, well-studied, and accessible. Hal Wierenga, who has conducted the state's Black Rail study, leads this exploration of the natural history and management of the Elliott Island marsh ecosystem. We'll identify marsh plants and search for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. We'll also discuss the effects of human activities on the marsh environment. Our foray continues into the night, when we'll listen for rails, frogs, owls, and Chuck-will's-widows. *Our group will meet in Cambridge then carpool out to our field site.*

Forest Bathing Walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island

Wednesday, June 7 (9:30 am-1 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join natural history author Melanie Choukas-Bradley for a *Shirin-Yoku* or forest bathing walk at Theodore Roosevelt Island. Numerous studies in Japan, Europe and North America have demonstrated the health benefits of spending quiet time immersed in nature, including lowered levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lowered blood pressure, increased immune system function, and elevated mood (things that ANS members already knew!). We will walk for about 2.5 miles at a slow pace and spend quiet time sitting and watching summer wildflowers and nectaring butterflies. Our leader says this walk is "more about being than IDing." She has portable forest bathing stools to loan to each participant for the duration of the walk. *Limited to 14 participants.*

Breeding Bird Walk at Sycamore Landing

Saturday, June 10 (7-11 am)

FULL

Early Summer Butterflies of Gambrill State Park and the Frederick Watershed

Saturday, June 10 (10 am-5 pm)

Leader: Rick Borchelt

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Early June in the Catocin Mountains offers an excellent window to observe many of Maryland's common summer butterflies, in addition to some rare or uncommon species. This trip will include short forays to search for three of these hard-to-find butterflies, depending on how the season progresses: Appalachian Azure, Indian Skipper, and Edwards' Hairstreak. The habitats we will visit include sites known for interesting dragonflies and other insects, as well as the occasional rattlesnake and black bear. *Expect some uphill/downhill walking on uneven and rocky natural surface trails.*

Ferns and Their Reproduction

Sunday, June 11 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

On this moderate hike in Turkey Run Park, just off the GW Parkway near McLean, VA, we will go beyond basic fern ID and delve into the amazing world of fern reproduction. We'll talk about how ferns normally reproduce, and some of the odd twists they take along the way. We'll hope to find and identify well over a dozen species of ferns and enjoy beautiful views of the Potomac River along the way. *Our hike of around 2.5 miles will be on mostly flat (but possibly very muddy) terrain along the River, but it includes a fairly-steep downhill and uphill stretch on a natural surface trail which is uneven and rocky in places. Also, be prepared for two rocky stream crossings.*

Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)

Section A: June 14 - Pennyfield Lock

Section B: June 21 - Riley's Lock

Section C: July 19 - Carderock

Section D: July 26 - Swain's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

These walks are full but please register for the waitlist as we often get a cancellation.

FULL

The Buzz on Bees and Wasps

Saturday, June 17 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

From solitary parasitic wasps to the highly social honey bee, from potter wasps to carpenter bees, these related insects form a fascinating and critically important part of the natural world. We'll take a look at their diversity, life histories, significant ecological roles, and worrisome threats facing them. We'll spend our time outdoors, combing the Woodend Sanctuary for wasps and bees, identifying them, and observing their habits.

Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 17

Join us for the 28th annual Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count. Participants in this citizen science project will be sent into the field in teams to count butterfly species in a given area. No experience is necessary. This mid-summer count, modeled after the Christmas Bird Counts, is organized by ANS and sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and Xerces Society. Email Stephanie Mason at stephanie.mason@anshome.org for a participant's information letter.

Citizen Science

It's (Almost) Summer Hike Along the Potomac

Sunday, June 18 (8 am-2:30 pm)

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Join two naturalists to explore the (almost) summer richness of the varied habitats along the C & O Canal towpath and the Potomac River nearly 50 miles above the Canal's starting point in Georgetown, D.C. We'll hike from Point of Rocks to the Monocacy Aqueduct (5.6 miles) along the Towpath in our search for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, amphibians, and summer plant life.

Advanced Dragonfly Studies: Common Emeralds and Skimmers of the Mid-Atlantic

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

Sunday, June 25 (3/4 day field trip)

Leader: Richard Orr

Members \$46; nonmembers \$70

Lecture only \$20/\$28

Feel like you're ready to "graduate" from our annual Introduction to Dragonfly and Damselfly class led by entomologist and dragonfly expert Richard Orr? Join us for his advanced series of classes, returning this year with field identification of Common Emeralds and Skimmers (Families Corduliidae and Libellulidae). Our instructor will combine an evening presentation with a field trip to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, where we'll hope to see many of these and other species in action. This is the first of three advanced classes which will cover field ID of all of the dragonfly and damselfly groups in the mid-Atlantic area. *Just getting started in dragonflies? Our introductory class on July 6 and 9 is for you.*

Solstice Walk Among the Elders

Sunday, June 25 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$24; nonmembers: \$34

Montgomery County's forest ecologist leads this celebration of the botanical lushness of summer in the floodplain plant community along the Potomac River in Frederick and Montgomery Counties. Starting at the Monocacy Aqueduct, we'll have the chance to admire a magnificent, ancient Eastern Cottonwood, among many other bottomland woody and herbaceous plant species. Heading downriver to Dickerson Conservation Park, we'll search out the largest known tree in MD, an old American sycamore, as well as the co-champion Silver Maple in Montgomery County and all things green.

Six-legged Songsters of Summer

Thursday, June 29 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Free, but registration is required.

Citizen Science

Sticky summer has arrived, and the songs of insects such as cicadas, crickets, and katydids begin to swell into a noisy and riotous chorus. Join naturalist Cathy Stragar at our Woodend Sanctuary for a slide introduction to the most common of these songsters: who they are, why they sing, and how they make their amazing sounds. She'll also describe how to get involved with the sixth annual Cricket Crawl citizen science activity in late August.

Holiday on Wheels Along the Patuxent

Tuesday, July 4 (8:30 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

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

Firefly Fling

Wednesday, July 5 (8-9 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Free, but registration required.

As dusk descends, come and enjoy nature's fireworks—the courting of fireflies over our Woodend fields and forests. The evening begins with a short discussion of the life history and behavior of these luminescent beetles. We'll then move outdoors to observe the various flash and light patterns of different species and try to “communicate” with these insects ourselves.

FREE

Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselflies

Thursday, July 6 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Sunday, July 9 (3/4 day field trip)

Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Richard Orr

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only \$20/\$28

Grab your binoculars and prepare to set your sights not on birds—although “mosquito hawk” is a common moniker—but on those six-legged, aerial acrobats of wetland habitats: the dragonflies and damselflies. At our evening lecture, Lisa Shannon will discuss ID, biology, and behavior of the more common species of Odonates in our area. Dragonfly expert Richard Orr will join her on our field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract) near Bowie, MD, where everyone will have a chance to test their identification skills.

JUST
ADDED

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

Art and Nature Journaling

Saturday, July 8 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Create an art journal page under the guidance of the artist of the Sugarloaf Mountain books and the illustrated Agricultural Reserve Map. Following a short stroll looking closely at nature, participants will share observations of native trees along the trail. Tina will show you how to create an art journal page using sketches and handwritten notes that reflect your walk in the woods. The only experience required is a love for our native woodland trees. Site for this outdoor workshop will be Black Hill Regional Park. *A list of art supplies will be provided with the confirmation letter.*

How Do Their Gardens Grow?

Saturday, July 15 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leaders: Liz Jones and Marney Bruce

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Here's your chance to visit the home gardens of two ANSers who have worked to reduce lawn coverage, increase food and shelter for wildlife, and incorporate native plants when possible. Liz and Marney will share their successes and failures on walks through their yards, both of which include water features. One yard is mostly shaded, while the second sports sun-loving plants in the front and shade-loving species in the back. Participants will divide into two groups, visiting one garden for roughly an hour before switching to the other site. Our destination gardens are both in the Bethesda, MD vicinity.

Geology of Northwest Branch

Wednesday, July 19 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Northwest Branch, straddling the border between Prince Georges and Montgomery County, carves a canyon as it descends from the Piedmont upland to the Atlantic Coastal Plain. We will hike upstream 3 miles from Adelphi Mill to Burnt Mills, using a car shuttle to complete the loop. Sandy coastal plain deposits change into splendid outcrops of tortured metamorphic rock, culminating in a steep, rocky gorge. The various bedrock exposures illustrate a history of colliding and rifting continents, while the stream has its own tale to tell as it carries broken pieces of our landscape downhill towards the sea. *The terrain for our hike is gently uphill on a good surface, except for two steep, rocky sections. Some stretches may be muddy. The pace set and distance covered on our geology hikes will be faster and farther than our usual “naturalists’ shuffle.”*

Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Summer Walk: Thursday, July 20 (10 am- Noon)

Fall Walk: Tuesday, October 24 (10 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

Intro to the Natural History and Identification of Shorebirds

Thursday, July 20 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, July 22 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Cyndie Loeper and John Bjerke

Members \$50; nonmembers \$70

Lecture only \$20/\$28

Shorebirds are among the most spectacular migrants in the avian world. Many species breed as far north as the Arctic tundra and winter as far south as Patagonia. By mid-July, they've already begun their remarkable journeys southward, passing through our coastal areas in the process and presenting an identification puzzle to beginning and even mid-level birders. Our beginner's level class will focus on the most common shorebirds that occur in our region, using a field trip to Delaware's Bombay Hook and Little Creek Refuges to reinforce Thursday night's slide-illustrated lecture.

Paddle on the Potomac

Friday, July 21 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Stephanie Mason

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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

B is for Butterfly

Saturday, July 22 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

On this slow stroll through several habitats at Black Hill Regional Park, near Boyds, MD, we'll offer an introduction to some of the butterflies of summer: their habitats, how to identify them, and where to look for their caterpillars and host plants. Our areas of exploration will be open and sunny.

Walk Among the Giants

C. Sunday, July 23 (8 am-Noon)

D. Sunday, October 22 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Walk among the giant Sycamores, Oaks, and River Birches on this seasonal series of explorations along the Potomac River just upstream of Great Falls, MD. We'll keep our eyes and ears open for all manner of wildlife, and watch the summer become sultry before fall colors herald the coming of another winter. Our floodplain trail, connecting with the Towpath, is mostly level, but could be muddy as we walk our loop of roughly 2.5 miles.

Sunset Stroll in the Hollow

Sunday, July 23 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Enjoy a slow evening stroll through the field, forest, and wetland habitats of the Hughes Hollow area, south of Poolesville, MD. As the sun sets, we'll look and listen for owls, frogs, foxes, beavers, bats, and insects, discussing the adaptations of these crepuscular and nocturnal animals.

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Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jun 3	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	Jul 29	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8	Aug 5	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	"	"	Morning Paddle on the Potomac	Y	18
"	2 pm	Natural Heritage Series: Elliott Island	Y	12	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
Jun 4	7:30 am	Little Bennett bird walk		23	Aug 6	9 am	Bees in the Backyard	Y	18
Jun 7	9:30 am	Forest Bathing Walk on TR Island	Y	12	Aug 9	7 pm	Summer Bird Life begins	Y	24
Jun 8	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	28	Aug 10	6 pm	Butterflies of Late Summer begins	Y	25
Jun 10	7 am	Breeding Bird Walk at Sycamore Landing	Y	12	Aug 12	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend	Y	18	Aug 17	8 pm	Crickets Count Listening Walk		18
"	10 am	Early Summer Butterflies of Gambrell	Y	10	Aug 19	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
"	"	Summer Camp Open House		9	Aug 25	after dark	Crickets Count! Citizen Science Activity		19
"	"	Children's Garden Open House		9	Aug 26	8:30 am	Delaware Coastal Areas bird walk		23
"	"	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
Jun 11	7:30 am	Oaks Landfill bird walk		23	Aug 30	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Ocoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	9 am	Ferns and Their Reproduction	Y	12	Sep 2	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Jun 14	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal A	Y	13	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8
Jun 17	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
"	9 am	The Buzz on Bees and Wasps	Y	13	Sep 3	8 am	Sycamore Landing bird walk		23
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	Sep 5	6:30 am	Rock Creek Park bird walk		23
"	all day	Western Mont. County Butterfly Count		13	Sep 8	10 am	Fridays at Widewater	Y	19
Jun 18	8 am	(Almost) Summer Hike Along the Potomac	Y	13	Sep 9	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Jun 21	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal B	Y	13	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
"	7 pm	Summer Wildflower ID begins	Y	24	"	1 pm	Sleuthing for Spiders	Y	19
Jun 22	7:30 pm	Advanced Dragonfly Studies	Y	13	Sep 10	7 am	Fall Birding Series A - Ag History Farm	Y	19
Jun 24	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18	Sep 12	10 am	Tales and Trails begins	Y	10
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	Sep 13	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal A	Y	19
Jun 25	9 am	Solstice Walk Among the Elders	Y	13	Sep 14	7 pm	Bats About		20

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jun 26	6 pm	Wetland Ecosystems begins	Y	24	Sep 15	6:30 pm	Evening on the Canal	Y	20
Jun 27	6:30 pm	Insect Life begins	Y	24	Sep 16	6:30 am	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23
Jun 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		18
Jun 29	6 pm	Ferns and Lycophytes begins	Y	25	"	9 am	Confusing Composites	Y	20
"	7:30 pm	Six-legged Songsters of Summer		13	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
Jul 1	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		8	Sep 17	8 am	Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers	Y	20
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	"	9 am	Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park	Y	20
Jul 4	8:30 am	Holiday on Wheels Along the Patuxent	Y	14	Sep 18	9:30 am	Master Naturalist training begins	Y	32
Jul 5	8 pm	Firefly Fling		14	"	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian begins	Y	11
Jul 6	7:30 pm	Intro to Dragonflies and Damselflies	Y	14	Sep 20	10 am	Fall Flora of the Gold Mine Tract	Y	20
Jul 8	10 am	Art and Nature Journaling	Y	14	Sep 22	10 am	Blue Ridge Beginnings hike	Y	21
"	"	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	"	"	Fresh Air Kids at Rust Sanctuary begins	Y	11
Jul 15	9 am	How Do Their Gardens Grow?	Y	14	Sep 23	8 am	Beginner bird walk at Woodend		18
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18	"	9 am	Walk Among the Ancients	Y	21
Jul 19	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal C	Y	13	"	10 am	Butterfly Migrants of Glendening Preserve	Y	21
"	10 am	Geology of Northwest Branch	Y	14	"	"	Snickers Gap Hawkwatch bird walk		23
Jul 20	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	15	"	"	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18
"	7:30 pm	Intro to the Natural History of Shorebirds	Y	15	Sep 24	9:30 am	Forest Bathing Walk	Y	21
Jul 21	9:30 am	Paddle on the Potomac	Y	15	Sep 25	8 am	On the Move at Cape May	Y	21
Jul 22	9 am	B is for Butterfly	Y	15	<div>Keep our campers safe! Please observe the One-Way signs at Woodend this summer.</div> <div>ONE WAY</div> <div><div>● Special Event</div><div>● Children and Family Program</div><div>● Adult Program</div><div>● Natural History Field Studies</div><div>● Rust (VA) Activities and Events</div></div> <div>Y = Fee-based program</div>				
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		18					
Jul 23	8 am	Walk Among the Giants	Y	15					
"	6:30 pm	Sunset Stroll in the Hollow	Y	15					
Jul 26	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23					
"	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal D	Y	13					
Jul 27	7:30 pm	Bugs 101	Y	18					
Jul 29	7:30 am	Pennyfield in the Summer bird walk		23					



Bugs 101

Thursday, July 27 (7:30-9:30 pm)
Saturday, July 29 (8:30 am-2 pm)
Leader: Nate Erwin
Members \$46; nonmembers \$64
Lecture only \$20/\$28

All true bugs are insects, but not all insects are truly bugs. Confused? And where do those strange names like 'butterfly' and 'dragonfly' come from when these insects are not flies at all? Join entomologist Nate Erwin in addressing these and other questions about the most diverse group of animals on the planet. The evening lecture will prepare participants for the field trip using close-up images of these amazing creatures, as well as some live specimens. Our field trip "classroom" will be the McKee-Beshers WMA near Poolesville, MD, where we'll learn to distinguish insects from related arthropods as we look for the identifying characteristics of major insect groups. *Expect sunny, open areas with tall vegetation on our field trip.*

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

Weekly walks through June. No walks July or August. Weekly walks resume in September. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at www.anshome.org/adults.

WEEKLY PLANT CLINIC

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

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Morning Paddle on the Potomac

Saturday, August 5 (9-11:30 am)
Leaders: Sujata Roy and Liz Jones
Members \$24; nonmembers \$34 (does not include canoe/kayak rental fee)

Spend a summer morning with two wildflower teachers paddling along the shoreline of the Potomac River. We'll be looking for seasonal blooms, such as cardinal flowers, monkey flowers, Virginia dayflowers, vervains, mallows, shrubby St. John's-wort, swamp milkweed, pickerelweed, and many other colorful riparian species. We will also hope to glimpse a bald eagle or osprey flying overhead, in addition to herons, turtles, dragonflies, butterflies and other wildlife. Rent a canoe or kayak at Fletcher's boathouse, or bring your own. Both single and double kayaks and canoes are available. Bring binoculars and your wildflower field guide in a zip-locked bag. *Registration fee does not include boat rental.*

Bees in the Backyard

Sunday, August 6 (9 am-12:30 pm)
Leader: Nate Erwin
Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Discover the diversity of native bees and other pollinators right outside your doorstep and in your garden. Join our entomologist leader in his home garden in Alexandria, VA and in surrounding natural areas for a look at what's helping produce many of the seeds and fruits in your neighborhood.

Crickets Count! Cricket Crawl Listening Walk

Thursday, August 17 (8-10 pm)
Leader: Cathy Stragar
Free, no registration necessary.



This free, outdoor training walk for the August 25 Cricket Crawl (6th Annual) will convene outside our Sanctuary Shop. Our leader will help participants learn to recognize the songs of target cricket and katydid species while exploring the grounds of our Woodend Sanctuary.

Crickets Count! Citizen Science Activity



Friday, August 25 (after dark)

Be a part of the sixth annual DC/Baltimore Cricket Crawl. Participants will learn the songs of eight species of crickets and katydids, then spend a few minutes to listen for their songs and send in their observations. For details on this citizen science project, which ANS is cosponsoring, check out this link: <http://www.discoverlife.org/cricket/DC/>. *Rain date for the Cricket Count is August 26.*



Fridays at Widewater

Fridays (10 am-3 pm)

Section A: September 8

Section B: October 6

Section C: November 3

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Entire series \$92; nonmembers \$130

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

Sleuthing for Spiders

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

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

Love Our Adult Nature Outings?

Celebrate a special occasion by giving a friend or family member a customized ANS nature walk. For details, contact Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason at stephanie.mason@anshome.org. Gift certificates for adult forays are also available - contact pam.oves@anshome.org for more information.



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Fall Birding Series

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$152/\$215

Our fall birding series visits seven protected areas, all under an hour's drive from D.C., where a variety of habitats — including field, forest, and wetland — provide good opportunities for the observation and identification of birds in autumn. On the earliest walks, we'll hope to catch some southbound migrants. As the season progresses, we'll watch for sparrows, raptors, waterfowl, and other birds. These teaching walks are aimed at beginning to mid-level birders, but all are welcome. Most of our explorations will be on natural surface trails that may be uneven or muddy, but some destinations include mild uphill and downhill.

Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 13 - Riley's Lock

B: September 27 - Carderock

C: October 11 - Violettes Lock

D: October 25 - Pennyfield Lock

E: November 8 -Widewater

F: November 22 - Swain's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$130/\$184

Enjoy one or all of these leisurely autumn walks along portions of the C&O Canal that enjoy less traffic than the towpath stretches close to Washington. 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 C&O Canal. We'll proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles — and whatever else we might find. Participants interested in carpooling will meet at Woodend.



Bats About

Thursday, September 14 (7-9 pm)

Leader: Kerry Wixted

Free, but registration is required.

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

FREE

Evening on the Canal

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

Confusing Composites

Saturday, September 16 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park

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

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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

Late Summer Wings and Wildflowers

Sunday, September 17 (8 am-noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

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

Fall Flora of the Gold Mine Tract

Wednesdays (10 am-1 pm)

A: September 20

B: October 18

Leader: Marney Bruce

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

Entire series \$43; nonmembers \$61

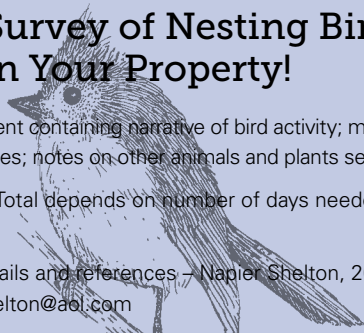
Fall is a great season to explore the plant life of the Gold Mine Tract, a large block of forest above the C&O Canal at Great Falls Park, MD. While not a true old-growth woodland, there are towering hardwood species to study and enjoy, and it is a fine example of Piedmont forest. Each hike of up to 3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

Have a Survey of Nesting Birds on Your Property!

Product: Document containing narrative of bird activity; map of nests/bird territories; notes on other animals and plants seen

Cost: \$200/day; Total depends on number of days needed for adequate survey

Contact: For details and references — Napier Shelton, 202-338-7831, ewshelton@aol.com



Natural Heritage Series: Blue Ridge Beginnings

Friday, September 22 (10 am-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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

Walk Among the Ancients

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

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

Butterfly Migrants at Glendening Preserve

Saturday, September 23 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Rick Borchelt

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

The Parris N. Glendening Preserve in Anne Arundel Co.'s Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary maintains a large butterfly garden that is one of the best area locations for late-summer migrant butterflies, including Long-tailed Skippers, Ocala Skippers, Fiery Skippers, Cloudless Skippers and Sleepy Oranges, and, of course, Monarchs. We'll spend most of our time exploring this active garden, boosting participants' skills identifying difficult-to-ID skippers, with a short walk into surrounding fields for late summer dragonfly and damselflies as well as other insects.

Look for details on other fall programs at ANShome.org/adults

Forest Bathing Walk

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

On the Move at Cape May

Monday, September 25 to Tuesday, September 26

Geology Hike along Sligo Creek

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

Window into the World of Fungi

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

Intro to Tree ID

Friday, October 13 (10 am-3 pm)

Geology of Donaldson Run and the Potomac River Gorge

Saturday, October 14 (1-6 pm)

Natural Heritage Hike: Calvert Cliffs State Park

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

The Natural and Cultural History of the Ag Reserve

Friday, October 27 (9:30 am-4 pm)

Raptors on the Move at Waggoner's Gap

Saturday, October 28 (3/4 day field trip)

Late Fall at Cape May

Saturday, October 28-Sunday, October 29

Fall Tree ID for Birders

Sunday, October 29 (2:30-4 pm)

FREE

A Year in Rock Creek Park:

Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park

Saturday, November 4 (9:30 am-3:30 pm)



This ANS service offers weekly reports of sightings of rare or notable birds. Email voice@ANShome.org or visit ANShome.org/voice.



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Free Birding Trips June-September

These free, volunteer-led walks offer birders a chance to explore new areas with other birding enthusiasts. Visit ANShome.org, then go to Nature Activities & Education/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.

JUNE

Sunday, June 4

Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co., MD

Half day. Nesting songbirds, possibly including Yellow-breasted Chat, Willow Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler.

Meet time/place: 7:30 am at Kingsley Trail parking area. Insect repellent highly advised, as is waterproof footwear, water and sunscreen. **Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Paul DeAnna, 202-544-2680 or ppdeanna47@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 11

Oaks Landfill, Laytonsville

One-third day. Explore this meadow area in the now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail. Possibility of Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, Meadowlarks, raptors. We have special permission to enter this "closed to the public" landfill so reservations are essential. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am on landfill entrance drive at 6001 Rt. 108, Laytonsville, MD. **Make reservation** (14-person limit) with leader Mark England at 240-375-4500 (cell) or markengland@canamcontractors.com.

Wednesday, June 28

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.

JULY

Wednesday, July 26

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See June 28 listing for details.

Saturday, July 29

Pennyfield in the Summer

Half day. In addition to summer residents, we'll look for common dragonflies and damselflies and listen for frogs calling and other sounds of summer. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at Pennyfield Lock on the C&O Canal. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Lisa Shannon, lpshannon@gmail.com. Rob Hilton will co-lead.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 26

Delaware Coastal Areas

Full day at Bombay Hook, Little Creek, Logan Tract, and other sites. Joint trip with MBC/MOS. Shorebirds, marshbirds, and some songbirds. Bring lunch, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, and lots of water. **Meet place/time:** 8:30 am at Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking lot. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with leader Clive Harris at clivegharris@yahoo.com. Cyndie Loeper will co-lead.

Wednesday, August 30

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See June 28 listing for details.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 3

Sycamore Landing and Hughes Hollow, MD

Half day. Early migrant songbirds; some raptors, waterfowl, and migrating butterflies. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at the Sycamore Landing parking lot by the C&O Canal. Easy walking trail. For more information, contact leader: Tony Futcher, 301-422-3927 or tonyfutcher1@verizon.net.

Tuesday, September 5

Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC

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

Saturday, September 16

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

Half day. Joint trip with MBC/MOS. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. **Meet time/place:** 6:30 am at park entrance gate. Bring fee of \$5 per person (Maryland residents) or \$7 (Virginia, DC residents) for park program; boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. **Make reservation** (20-person limit) with John Bjerke, johnbjerke1@mac.com or 240-401-1643.

Saturday, September 23

Snickers Gap Hawkwatch (between Bluemont & Berryville, VA)

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

Wednesday, September 27

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See June 28 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 from the L'Enfant stop. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit ANShome.org/adults.

Wetland Ecosystems

NATH8211E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: June 26-August 28

Field trip dates: July 8 (Battle Creek Swamp), July 15 (Jug Bay) and July 22 (Suitland Bog)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Terry McTigue

The National Capital area harbors a rich variety of wetlands, ranging from bogs to tidal marshes. Become familiar with the landscape and ecological processes that form wetlands and how to identify the plants and animals commonly found in wetlands. Gain an understanding of wetland conservation, including wetland restoration, and policy. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*

Insect Life

NATH7130E, 3 CEUs

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

Class meetings: June 27-September 5

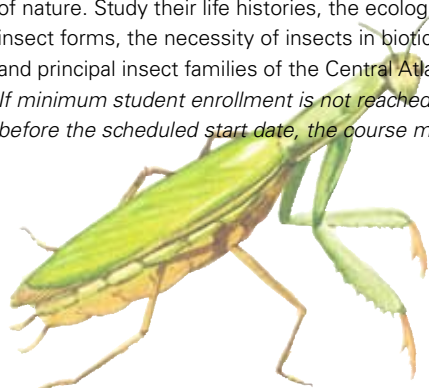
Field trip dates: July 15 (8:30 am-12 pm), July 29 (8:30 am-12 pm) and August 12 (6-9 pm)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Cathy Stragar

Learn to identify insects and discover their roles in the balance of nature. Study their life histories, the ecologies of important insect forms, the necessity of insects in biotic communities and principal insect families of the Central Atlantic region. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*



Summer Bird Life

NATH7116E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: August 9-30

Field trip dates: August 19 and 27

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Gemma Radko

Bird activity is especially busy in the summer, with courting, nesting, and fledging happening in the space of a few short months. Learn about local summer birds and their breeding strategies, nests and nestlings, habitat requirements, and much more. We will discuss the recent state-wide atlas, and what we can learn from atlas activities. Two field trips to local parks will help participants learn to identify local nesters, their nests, and young birds. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*

Summer Wildflower Identification

NATH7149E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9:15 pm

Class meetings: June 21-July 19

Field trip dates: June 24 and July 15

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Sujata Roy

From milkweeds and morning glories to orchids and asters, summer presents a diverse array of wildflowers for study of plant family characteristics and ways to identify different species. Field trips to two scenic locations for summer wildflowers provide an opportunity for practice in the use of identification guides. Previous Spring Flower Identification class or similar course is recommended but not required. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*

Summer Courses June-September

Butterflies of Late Summer

NATH8210E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: August 10-September 7

Field trip dates: August 19 and 26 and September 2 (2 required; Sunday rain dates)

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

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Rick Borchelt

Midsummer through early fall offer a diversity of butterflies and their associated host plants distinctly different from the butterfly fauna of spring and early summer. Participants will learn to identify butterflies in the mid-Atlantic that fly from midsummer through frost, organized by the time of their principal flight period; study the principles of butterfly classification; observe and understand migration in many of the late-season butterflies; observe and document caterpillar host and adult nectar sources; and participate in citizen-science documentation of butterfly diversity and abundance. Two all-day and one half-day field trips will include a focus on butterfly conservation in a variety of habitats. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*

Ferns and Lycophytes

NATH7148E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: June 29-July 27

Field trip dates: July 15 and 22

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

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Carl Taylor

Ferns are ferntastic! This class will reveal the unique structure and fascinating life histories of ferns and lycophytes. Examine their taxonomy, including how names are chosen, and describe, classify, and identify them. Investigate the intriguing evolutionary history of ferns and lycophytes. Learn how easy it is to grow ferns and how to garden with them. Two field trips will focus on the identification and ecology of our native ferns and lycophytes. Students must have a good quality 10X-14X hand lens or they will miss the marvelous detail of these wonderful plants. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.*

Support ANS — Monthly!

It's easy! Go to ANShome.org/Donate, or contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or loree.trilling@anshome.org.

Find details on Fall NHFS classes, starting in September, at ANShome.org/adults

Chesapeake Bay Ecosystems

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Terry McTigue

Chemistry for Naturalists

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

Instructor: Joe Marx

Fall Woody Plant ID

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

Instructor: Emily Ferguson

Introduction to Ecology

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jane Huff

Eastern Forest Ecosystems

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

Instructors: Joe Marx and Stephanie Mason

Weather and Climate

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

Instructor: Sean Potter

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
- 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 for complete itineraries and registration information or visit ANSHome.org/adults.

New Mexico: A Natural History Exploration

Registration closes June 16

September 9-16, 2017

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn and David Krueper

New Mexico is known as the land of enchantment, but it's also a land of great diversity – diverse wildlife, diverse ecosystems influenced by a huge range of elevations and past geological



Photo by Terry Dunn

events, diverse cultures where Native American and Spanish influences dominate, and a history that is unlike any other. Visiting New Mexico in September means catching the birds while they are migrating and the chile when it

has just been roasted! Your exploration of New Mexico begins in Albuquerque; the second half of our trip will be based in Santa Fe. With excursions including the Petroglyph National Monument, Acoma Sky City (a Native American pueblo), Valles Caldera, Embudito Canyon and so much more, we'll also have time to explore the museums, architecture and historic sights of our base cities. ANS members' cost is \$2650, double occupancy from Albuquerque, NM.

Meet the leaders:

Dave Krueper is a nongame avian biologist working for the US Fish & Wildlife Service based in Albuquerque, NM. Dave has been an avid birder for over 35 years, and has visited 6 continents and 27 countries during that time. He has led birding tours to Alaska, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Florida, western Mexico, and Trinidad & Tobago. Besides avian photography, his passion is avian biology, systematics, and the distribution of birds of the New World tropics. He is the past President of the New Mexico Ornithological Society, and is a past President of Western Field Ornithologists.

Terry Lawson Dunn holds a master's degree in environmental communications, a bachelor's degree in wildlife science, has worked for World Wildlife Fund, Smithsonian National Zoo, National Audubon Society, and World Resources Institute. Terry has led group trips to Panama for the last 8 years and finds her true joy lies in enabling others to experience and understand the natural world. Terry has lived in Albuquerque for the last 16 years and adores the wide open spaces and the surprises that come with living in the Land of Enchantment.



Photo by Terry Dunn

Honduras: Spectacular Pico Bonito Lodge

November 11-18, 2017

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & local guides

Pico Bonita Lodge, near the Caribbean Sea in northern Honduras, is the new "hot destination" for birding and nature tours in Central America. The lodge features comfortable cabins, exceptional meals, and great service, but more importantly it features excellent trails through pristine forests adjacent to a large National Park. Spend a week at this lodge exploring these trails and venturing out to nearby natural areas, including mangrove swamps of Cuero y Salada Wildlife Refuge and the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago. Lovely Cotinga, Boat-billed Heron, Keel-billed Motmot, and the endemic Honduran Emerald just begin the list of possible sightings. ANS members' cost is \$2860 double occupancy and includes all meals at the Lodge.

From our 2015 Pico Bonito travelers:

"The local guides exceeded all expectations. The lodge, food and service were outstanding."

"It was lovely staying in one place and not moving every few days. Another wonderful aspect was the variety of outings, boat trips, train trips, and snorkeling."

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. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@ANShome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 to receive information as soon as it becomes available.



Photo by Mark S. Garland

Pack Your Travel Protection!

Call 301-652-9188 x10 or purchase a plan online with our partner: travelexinsurance.com and use the ANS code **20-6029**.

Audubon Naturalist Shop Summer Sales!

June: T-Shirts & Jewelry
July: All Books & Puzzles
August: Birdseed & selected Optics



Woodend Nature Sanctuary
301-652-3606
M-F 10-5; Sat 9-5; Sun 12-5

Costa Rica: A Trove of Tropical Birds—and More

February 16-March 3, 2018

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos “Charlie” Gomez

Our Senior Naturalist is already looking forward to her 19th year of co-leading an ANS trip with Costa Rican birder and naturalist extraordinaire Charlie Gomez. Considered a top ecotourism destination, the tropical wonderland of Costa Rica harbors a rich diversity of plants and animals. Our 2018 trip explores Caribbean lowland rain forest, cool mountain highlands, southern Pacific foothills and coastline, and other wildlands. Expect toucans, trogons, tanagers, tropical butterflies, monkeys, and more. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@ANShome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 to receive the registration packet when it is 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



Photo by Terry Dunn

overlooks, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Morro Bay. Please contact Carol at carol.hayes@ANShome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 to receive information as soon as it becomes available.

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

August, 2018

Leader: Mark Garland

Journeys to Alaska offer spectacular scenery, fabulous wildlife viewing, and a sense of wilderness that's becoming increasingly rare in today's world. We're delighted that veteran trip leader Mark Garland will be leading another ANS trip there in late summer 2018. Planning is in the very early stages, but you can contact our nature travel desk to receive the registration packet when it is available.

ANS Conservation Policy and Advocacy News

National

- ANS joined the Choose Clean Water Coalition in a **Capitol Hill Lobby Day** to push back against President Trump's proposed budget that would gut the EPA and cut all Chesapeake Bay Program funding. In the budget bill passed in April, this funding was saved! The Trump Administration and EPA Administrator Pruitt continue to mount constant attacks on environmental regulations, but this is a big win for now.

DC

- ANS worked with coalition partners to react to a National Park Service draft proposal to **redevelop the Rock Creek Park Nature Center and Maintenance Yard**. Our comments highlighted the critical importance of habitat protection and stormwater management at the top of the ridge, and we've since heard that the Park Service will be reconsidering their concepts and releasing new proposals in the fall. Thanks to all ANS members who sent comments!

Maryland

- Big news: The Maryland General Assembly passed a **permanent fracking ban**! Thanks to the ANS members who travelled to Annapolis for the rally and called and wrote their legislators. YOU helped protect our land and water from natural gas fracking and the pipelines it would bring!
- In Montgomery County, the Conservation program continues to support and promote **green infrastructure** with the County Council and Department of Environmental Protection. In April, ANS and Potomac Conservancy led a series of County Council Lobby Days with members of local watershed groups to tell our elected officials how important it is to keep Montgomery County a leader in stormwater management.

Virginia

- Big news: Virginia Governor Terri McAuliffe strengthened and passed Senate Bill 1398 which will help ensure the proper assessment of Virginia's **coal ash storage facilities** prior to their closure. The Governor also signed legislation that will require **Alexandria City to upgrade its outdated combined sewer system** by 2025. Two wins on important conservation issues fought for by Virginia advocates. Thank you!
- In Fairfax County, the Conservation program and volunteers **testified before the Board of Supervisors** several times this spring in favor of clean water, stormwater management, and parks and open space.

Save the Date

ANS Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 6-9 pm



Image courtesy of OMA+OLIN

Conservation Café

Enjoy a fun evening with friends, learn about hot environmental topics, and support ANS conservation work!

Join us in the Woodend Mansion library on **Thursday, June 8 from 7-8:30 pm** for coffee and dessert. Our speaker will be Scott Kratz, Director of the 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of Ward 8 based nonprofit Building Bridges Across the River. The Park will be Washington, D.C.'s first elevated public park located on the piers of the old 11th Street Bridge spanning the Anacostia River: a new venue for healthy recreation; environmental education and the arts. Hear about Scott's vision for this project, its current status, and how you can get involved.

Register at <https://anshome.org/conservation-events>. 100% of your \$10 registration fee goes to support our ANS Conservation Program!

City Parks Victory!

On April 25th, thanks to the work of ANS and community organizations, the Montgomery County Council voted to approve converting four parking lots to future parks in the Bethesda downtown plan!

Learn more and read ANS' testimony at <http://conservationblog.anshome.org>.



Photo credit "sv johnson via Flickr"



March for Science on Earth Day was a resounding success because of you, ANS members and supporters!

Thank you for your donations, your time, your glorious posters that spoke truth to power in funny and intelligent ways, and your patience and persistence in the chilly, wet weather, and long, long lines! You gave us all we hoped for - and more. Thank you so much!

Ruling on Subpoena - Victory for our First Amendment Rights

On March 24, 2017 Magistrate Judge Sullivan issued a 27-page opinion substantially denying Pulte's motion to enforce the subpoenas it issued to Audubon Naturalist Society and our partners for all documents related to our fight to Save Ten Mile Creek. On behalf of ANS and its coalition partners, our pro bono attorney, Don Mitchell from Arent Fox LLP in Washington, DC, filed a motion to quash the subpoena and argued passionately in court about the chilling effect the subpoena would have on citizen engagement in land use decision making. Mr. Mitchell made a vigorous defense of our First Amendment rights.

Judge Sullivan clearly took these arguments seriously and refused Pulte access to our internal and third-party communications. In other words, the Judge upheld our First Amendment rights and denied Pulte access to any documents concerning our internal and external coalition communications about planning, strategy, tactics and citizen engagement in the Save Ten Mile Creek fight.

The court held that our interests outweighed Pulte's in all except one category of documents. The court did direct ANS and its coalition partners to produce any documents actually sent to Montgomery County government officials and any scientific data that we collected in Ten Mile Creek. All of this information has always been available in the public records of our testimony to the County Council and Planning Commission and through the ANS water quality monitoring data we publish freely on our website. An additional sweetener is that Pulte must pay the costs of the records search to those subpoenaed. Won't it be delightful to have Pulte write a check to Audubon Naturalist Society?

You can count on Audubon Naturalist Society to keep fighting to protect clean water and healthy habitats, and to stand up for the rights of all citizens to participate in land use decision making in our region.

If you'd like to let the Pulte Company know what you think of their subpoena, visit their website or Facebook page and leave a comment.



Former ANS Conservation Director Diane Cameron presents Attorney Don Mitchell of Arent Fox with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding pro bono work to uphold our First Amendment Rights.



On May 15, Bob Musil – President and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council – led a group of nature enthusiasts on a short nature walk at Woodend and followed it with a talk about his latest book, *Washington in Spring*, and the value of keeping a nature journal.



Save the Date for the first fall event in our 120th Anniversary series:

Wednesday, September 27 at 7 pm: **Rachel Carson – A Living History Portrayal** featuring award-winning actress Leslie Goddard. At Woodend - this is a ticketed event.

We are delighted that ANS is participating for the first time in Heritage

Montgomery's **Heritage Days**

Weekend. Each

year, on the last weekend of June, Heritage Montgomery hosts its signature event, the annual Heritage Days celebration. This

two-day, countywide event with free admission offers visitors an opportunity to sample numerous sites representing the history, culture, and natural beauty of Montgomery County.

ANS will be hosting House Tours of Woodend Manor and tours of our Children's Garden and Blair Native Plant Garden from 10 am–1 pm on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25.

For more information about our events, please contact Allie Henn at Allie.Henn@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x12.



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We would like to thank the following catering companies for their generous in-kind donations:

**Mike Isabella Concepts -
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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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Master Naturalist Training at Woodend Sanctuary!

This fall, ANS will partner with the University of Maryland Extension to offer our seventh Maryland Master Naturalist training course. ANS will bring top-notch instructors to the program, which will provide:

- 52 hours of training in the ecology, flora, and fauna of MD
- 8 hours of hands-on field work
- Focus on the natural history of Maryland's Piedmont region

Master Naturalist training graduates will commit 40 hours annually to naturalist-related volunteer service with ANS assisting with education programs, sanctuary stewardship, or community outreach.

DATES: Mondays & Wednesdays, September 18–November 8, 2017,
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Application-based admission limited to 20 participants.

If you'd like to learn more about the natural world and become a trained naturalist volunteer, apply online at ANShome.org/master-naturalist. Questions? Call 301-652-9188 x30.



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