#### **AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY**

# Naturalist Quarterly Spring 2018

ANSHOME.ORG



Nature for All - Creating a Thriving Natural Oasis at Woodend

by Alison Pearce, Director of Restoration

## ANS NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

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

#### HEADQUARTERS

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

#### STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM Saturday 9 AM-5 PM Sunday 12-5 PM

GROUNDS HOURS Dawn to dusk

#### ANS MEMBERSHIP

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

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**COVER** Photo of Eastern Towhee courtesy of Wikipedia Commons, Authors: Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren



## From the Director

#### Nature for Whom? Nature for All!

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Fittingly, it's also the year that Audubon Naturalist Society hosted a meeting of Independent Audubon Societies from across the country. We gather with our counterparts



to trade stories of successes and frustrations and learn from one another how best to strengthen the environmental movement nationwide. Throughout our history, ANS has led discourse about the intersection of humans and nature. Our Independent Audubon meeting was no exception. We seized the opportunity to bring that discourse to Capitol Hill and lobby for full enforcement of environmental protections in our nation, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the federal law that Audubon Societies everywhere fought to pass a century ago.

Just days before the Trump administration released its poorly imagined budget that guts the Chesapeake Bay Program and strips funding for the Environmental Protection Agency, my colleagues and I walked the halls of Congress fiercely supporting environmental protection and full funding for conservation programs and agencies. We walked five miles back and forth to the House and Senate. Our lead issue was advocating for passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). This act would redirect royalties from existing mining and drilling on public lands, and send that money back to the states for implementation of Wildlife Recovery programs. Please write or call your Senators and Representatives and let them know that you also support RAWA. We have high hopes for this to be – *stop the presses* - a bipartisan bill!

Wildlife recovery nationwide is mirrored here at our own headquarters as we roll out our Nature for All project. Nature for All will restore the habitats of our beloved Woodend Sanctuary to bring back plant, insect, bird and amphibian biodiversity. Nature for All will provide a warmer, more inclusive welcome that invites all people in our region to experience the benefits of nature. The subject of diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion ran through all conversations during the final days of the Independent Audubon meeting. We grappled with questions of how to break down barriers that prevent people from enjoying those fundamental, healing connections with nature that are so essential for quality of life.

My fellow Executive Directors and I all committed to taking steps to increasing Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion (DEAI) in our organizations – from hiring, to Board recruitment, to programming and partnerships and nature interpretation. Just this week, ANS's own Programs Committee made plans to launch a DEAI task force to define what those inclusion terms mean to the mission work of ANS.

Through Nature for All, ANS will continue to demonstrate meaningful ways for all of us to respond to human-driven change while preserving and restoring as biodiversity. Through Nature for All, we will inspire people to take action in their daily lives to support the natural world. Together, we will nurture a new generation of conservationists who someday will bring their environmental ethic to Capitol Hill. Our region and our planet depend on humans making new choices, and ANS will serve a leading role in convening thought leaders who will influence decision makers and future generations to make positive changes in support of nature in our region and our nation.

Find your place in the Nature for All project by signing up at anshome.org/volunteer.



STAFF UPDATES: We are pleased to welcome Mitch Greene as Volunteer Coordinator. He is a graduate of the 2017 MD Master Naturalist Program, operated a Personal Chef Service business for a decade, served for eight years as a U.S. Naval Officer, and studied physics at the U.S. Naval Academy. Amy Ritsko-Warren is our new Director of Operations. A camp parent since 2014, she comes to us from the Greater Capital Area Association of REALTORS, where she served as Chief Operating Officer. At ANS, Amy is working to implement office, building, and work flow system efficiencies and improvements. With a background in marketing, she is also working with the ANS Shop and Woodend's rental manager to grow revenue. We welcome Ben Israel as our first Staff Videographer/Photographer. Ben runs his own videography company, Color School Films, and previously worked for the national Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence as a videographer for documentary purposes, conferences, fundraising galas, and public rallies. Vince Robinson is our Webmaster and first Social Media Manager. Vince has a BA in Journalism (Broadcast) from Indiana University, Bloomington and and has worked as a television news reporter, news director, communications manager, graphic designer, webmaster and social media manager.

# Naturalist Quarterly Expands to Give You More

The Naturalist Quarterly has more to give you! We've added eight more pages so that we can give you more stories, news, and photos – especially nature photos – and we're expanding our features section to include children in nature. We're sharing more because there's so much good stuff going on in the natural world – alongside the bad – and we want to keep you alerted to the emerging and persistent challenges and threats we face.

So, drop us a line and let us know what you think. Email contact@anshome.org with the Subject Line "More NO."

And while you're at it, email your best high-resolution (500KB or more) nature photos to contact@anshome.org, with your name, the name of the flora or fauna, the date your photo was taken and location. Let us know, also, if you're an ANS member. You may see your photo in the next Naturalist Quarterly, eNews, website, or other ANS platforms!

Thank you for allowing us to give you a little more, and feel free to spread the word!

-ANS

## Nature for All - Creating a Thriving Natural Oasis at Woodend

### by Alison Pearce, Director of Restoration

You spoke, we heard you, and we agree 100%! During our master planning process for Woodend Nature Sanctuary, surveys clearly showed that habitat restoration is the top priority for our members. Thanks to your input, we have set to work on plans to create a thriving natural oasis here at Woodend.

Over the past 50 years, our sanctuary has suffered the loss of many plant and animal species. The increase in pavement in our neighborhood changed water flow, and Woodend's small stream has become a deeply-eroded stormwater gully. To address runoff that was flowing from Woodend into our neighbors' yards and Rock Creek, ANS installed an enormous rain garden at our north boundary and will add a second smaller rain garden along the driveway this year. We are also designing a



stream restoration project that will heal eroded stream banks, improve the condition of our pond, create wildlife habitat, recharge groundwater, and further reduce sediment flushing into Rock Creek.

Local forest health has declined precipitously in recent decades, primarily because the deer population has dramatically increased. Deer will

eat most anything, but they dine on native plants first, especially young seedlings. This has allowed exotic weeds to become dominant at Woodend. Our preschoolers call these invasive plants "friends that do not share" because they provide little support for wildlife. More alarming still, the deer have eaten almost all of Woodend's tree seedlings, threatening the very existence of a future forest.

In an effort to reverse the decaying deer damage and to restore habitat for other wildlife, including groundnesting birds, butterflies, bees, small mammals, and amphibians, like marbled salamanders, we have erected a fence around 33 acres of Woodend. Despite the fence, several deer have been able to re-enter the sanctuary, surprising all the experts. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we have been able to gently move the deer off the sanctuary. As of this writing (fingers crossed!) there <u>are no deer on the</u> <u>sanctuary.</u>

But we are watchful for their return, thanks to the donation and loan of 15 wildlife cameras that we are using to monitor the sanctuary. To ensure that we do everything in our power to restore habitat in the near term, ANS has convened a panel of deer management experts to help us solve deer re-entry problems and recommend solutions for keeping deer out of Woodend. This new Restoration Advisory Panel will present their recommendations to our Board of Directors in June. We are determined to begin restoration plantings in earnest by fall of 2018.

And the great news is that our habitat restoration is just a part of our larger revitalization of Woodend. Time in nature is important for everyone, and we want our headquarters to be an oasis for people and wildlife. That is why we are launching our Nature for All project that will include a wheelchairaccessible trail, a nature play space, and interpretive signs and information that will inspire our community to understand and protect nature. We hope you'll get involved!

Sign up to be on our restoration team at www.anshome.org/volunteer.

Donate a tree for Woodend restoration at https://anshome.org/plant-a-tree.







### Next 100 Coalition

## By Kevin Bryan, Senior Policy Director, Keystone Center

Conservation as we perceive it is dead.

Our perception of conservation is often limited within boundaries of national parks and monuments. We envision lush forests reared against colorful sunsets or towering mountains in far off places, away from the cores where almost 80 percent of our population lives.

This concept of conservation often fails to make the connection between people and the natural beauty around us. This concept often does not include youth from marginalized communities. This concept seldom veers off historic trails to

connect our common histories, cultures and experiences.

In the next 100 years, the conservation community must include a workforce that reflects the growing diversity of our nation, both in rank-and-file positions and throughout leadership ranks. The future of conservation will increase access for people, especially those from marginalized communities, to enjoy our federal public lands, state parks, and city open spaces. And it will create spaces that reflect the diverse culture and experiences of our people, and respect and uplift our collective experience in America. This is the vision of the Next 100 Coalition (next100coalition.org).

Coalition members such as Latino Outdoors are encouraging residents to find their place in nature. Groups like the Greening Youth Foundation and the Hispanic Access Foundation are creating internship opportunities for youth of color, providing valuable work experience and creating a more culturally diverse pool of prepared candidates to serve as the next generation of professionals in the conservation sector. Coalition partners in Colorado, Nevada, and California have initiated their own group of local organizations working under the same principles.

Forging the new conservation movement is the challenge before us. The Next 100 Coalition is providing a critical voice for that effort. Join us and our allies in our effort to shape an equitable, inclusive conservation and public lands agenda.

## Accessibility is a Priority on the Path to Nature For All

## By Beth Ziebarth, ANS Board Member and Director of Access Smithsonian

Accessibility for people with disabilities is both a personal interest and a professional responsibility for me. When I was 16, I was in a car accident that injured my spinal cord. I now use a wheelchair.

As an adult, I've spent the majority of my career in museum accessibility for visitors to the Smithsonian. The mission of my office is to support the Smithsonian in making all visitors feel welcome by providing integrated, effortless access to the Institution's programs, collections and facilities.

Some of the facts that drive my work are:

- One in five Americans has a disability.
- Rates of disability increase with age; 8% of children under the age of 18 have a disability while 50% of adults over the age of 65 have disabilities.
- The World Health Organization's definition of disability focuses on the barriers a person encounters in society, rather than a medical diagnoses. A person is more or less disabled based on their interaction with physical, communication, information, social and policy environments.
- Accessibility is an organizational asset.
- Meeting accessibility goals, such as a continuous unobstructed path



connecting elements of a play area or a picnic table with a wheelchair space, is vital. But we should also think more broadly about employing universal design to meet the needs of a wide range of people. The goal of universal design is to make it easier, healthier, and friendlier for people to navigate spaces and engage. For instance, a facility could include audio descriptions of key visual elements, a text alternative for people with hearing loss, or trail interpretive signs that include a 3D model of an animal.

Because people with disabilities are part of Woodend's diverse audience, ANS is using accessibility models and universal design to make its environments, especially those included in the new Woodend restoration plan, more welcoming.

From my short time with ANS as a board member, I know how passionate the board, staff, members, and volunteers are about the value of experiencing and conserving nature. We can collectively enable lifelong connections to nature, and should, because we understand that access to nature changes lives.



# **Children and Nature**

## Nature is one Constant Thrill Ride for Unplug and Play Students

#### By Serenella Linares

I have the best job in the world!

Almost every day I have the opportunity to interact with children from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages. These children melt my heart with their bright eyes and expressions of wonder at the first touch of a bird's feathers, or a mushroom emerging gently out of the ground.

I can almost feel their little hearts warming up to a new world of discovery, as they learn about, for instance, how trees grow and connect with other creatures right under their little feet.

One of the most rewarding experiences is the *Unplug and Play* program at Rolling Terrace Elementary School. During the past few weeks, students from Rolling Terrace have been learning about the environment, human impacts, and how can we improve the environment for all.

We have explored topics related to waste disposal, water quality, air pollution, and the last one will be about energy. We watched a video about pollution, learned about greenhouse gases, and played a game called Air Cleaners.

For the purpose of the game, one child is the factory and has the task of signaling kids representing pollutants to run out to the field. Then, another student, our Super Naturalist, goes out tagging pollutants and transforming them into trees. The excitement was palpable. One girl exclaimed, "Wow! I am learning so much," as we journeyed through a lesson about the atmosphere and how solar energy gets trapped as heat close to the Earth's surface.

Another student jumped up to ask with a big smile: "Could we please plant trees?"

It is a great joy to see how programs like these allow us to touch the lives of children of diverse backgrounds, expose them to nature activities, and demonstrate that science can be as thrilling as video games.



### Virginia Naturally Award Goes to Algonkian Elementary



On February 2, 2018, ANS's Ellen McDougall, Environmental Educator (pictured top right), presented the Virginia Naturally Recognition Year 1 Plaque to Algonkian Elementary in Sterling, VA. Algonkian is in its 2nd year as a GreenKids School. In addition to the teachers presenting the GreenKids lessons, students and staff have installed waystations and pollinator gardens, and established a meadow to further improve the riparian buffer along Horsepen Run (which empties directly into the Potomac River). Algonkian was also recognized by ANS for creating a Natural Wildlife Sanctuary on school grounds.

Elaine Layman, Supervisor of Elementary Education for Loudoun County Public Schools, attended to help the school celebrate. Congratulations to Algonkian students and staff! Learn more about VA GreenKids at anshome.org.



## Policy and Advocacy News

#### By Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

#### Maryland

**More Trees Please!**: Maryland's Forest Conservation Act, a 24-year-old Maryland law, is supposed to protect forests from over-development by requiring builders to preserve the best forests on development sites. The law has slowed forest clearance during some development, but in areas where development pressure is intense and forests are considerable, builders have cut down more than 40 percent of the forests, on average. Few, if any, acres are replanted.

ANS is working with a statewide coalition to improve the Forest Conservation Act by passing House Bill 766/Senate Bill 610 this session. Many thanks to the ANS members and friends who have made phone calls, sent postcards (see photo below), and travelled to Annapolis to Rally Your Reps in support of the bill! We're hoping for success—you'll read about it in the next Naturalist Quarterly.



Interested in getting involved? Make sure you sign up for our Action Alert list at anshome.org/sign-up-for-ansaction-alerts/ and check out our blog at conservationblog.anshome.org.

#### Do You Know Where Your Drinking Water Comes From?

In December, ANS partnered with many local organizations, including the Maryland Sierra Club/Montgomery County Group, to host a forum on drinking water in the Washington Region. ANS Board President Scott Fosler gave the keynote address. Panelists from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Montgomery County Parks, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin spoke about opportunities and challenges in our region. Missed the event? Read the recap on the Sierra Club's blog at http://bit.ly/2E5qLMo, or join us on April 12 when Scott gives a recap at the Conservation Café!

#### <u>D.C.</u>

Who Pays to Clean up Pollution? "Disgusting Potomac." "Potomac Filth Blights a World Mecca." "\$6 million asked to clean up streams." "Silt, Not Sewage, Held Worst River Pollutant." "Potomac Cleanup Needs More Cash."

Do you remember these Washington Post headlines from the 20th century? The one in the image below is from 1938. Those were the bad old days before the Clean Water Act, when unregulated dumping and a sewer network still coming into existence meant that the rivers and streams of our region suffered mightily from the vast growth the city and its suburbs underwent during the early-mid 1900s. Those days are over now...right? Not really. The arguments and civic conversations continue today: How do we clean up our rivers and streams? Who pays for the cost of new infrastructure? Read more about our deep dive into the past history of these conversations, and get up to date on what's happening today, at http:// cleanstreams.anshome.org/tag/Spring18NQ.

# \$2,000,000 Is Asked for Clean Rivers

100 Leaders Unanimously Resolve to Urge PWA Loan.

Silver Spring Meeting Calls for Action Immediately.

## Conservation

**The Year of the Anacostia**: In September, the DC Council introduced a resolution declaring 2018 "the Year of the Anacostia." ANS is excited to participate in the educational and conservation activities around the Anacostia this year, including continuing to lead Creek Critters programs throughout the watershed and continue our support of the Festival del Rio! We hope to see you as we're out and about in the watershed.

#### Virginia

On January 25, ANS submitted public testimony at the Fairfax County Planning Commission's Public Hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment for the EMBARK redevelopment proposal for Rt.1/Richmond Highway. Testimony ran into the wee hours of the morning with a dozen dedicated speakers waiting over 5 hours to provide statements. ANS NoVA Advocacy Manager spoke at 1 am!

We spoke in support of green infrastructure and green design, better stormwater management, and access to workforce and affordable housing along the corridor as it develops. We also highlighted the critical importance of protecting Huntley Meadows and its tributaries.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the amendment on March 20 at 4:00 pm. – by Monica Billger, ANS NoVA Advocacy Manager.

## Su Vecindario Su Salud/Your Neighborhood Your Health

Sunday, March 18 (3:15-4:15 pm, después de 2 pm misa en español). Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

Una conversación sobre el cuidado de la creación y cómo se relaciona con la naturaleza en su vecindario y su salud.

A conversation about Caring for Creation and how it relates to nature in your neighborhood and your health.

Email monica.billger@anshome.org to RSVP.



#### <u>Regional</u>

Victory! On December 20, 2017, the regional Transportation Planning Board resoundingly voted in support of five initiatives to address long-term regional transportation needs: The outer beltway, including a new Potomac bridge crossing, was NOT one of the initiatives advanced. The new bridge's omission from the long-term plan makes it significantly less likely to occur.

Thank you to all members who spoke out or provided resources to oppose this threat to our drinking water. The toll lane initiative does include an expansion of the existing American Legion Bridge over the Potomac, and ANS will remain vigilant, providing additional analysis, suggestions and opportunities to comment, so that threats to our water are minimized. – by Elyzabeth Earnley, ANS Member & Volunteer.



Participants on a Richmond Highway/Rt.1 Corridor watershed walk on February 24 learned about where the rain goes as they explored part of the Little Hunting Creek watershed with NoVa Advocacy Manager Monica Billger and partners at the Coalition for Smarter Growth. From unsightly litter to stormwater pollution to access to green space and affordable housing, neighbors and young people joined their District Supervisor and county environment staff to learn and share their thoughts on future redevelopment. At the site shown in this photo, the EMBARK redevelopment project plans a future bridge expansion over Little Hunting Creek. Come to our Virginia advocacy events to learn more!

## Conservation

## Creek Critters - New Release!

The latest updates to Creek Critters have been released. Please visit the Apple App Store or Google Play to download or upgrade the free app (iOS version 4.1, Android version 4.0).

You can now choose whether you are identifying critters in moving water or still water. If you are working in a stream, river or other moving water, you'll generate a report to assess stream health based on your findings. If you are working in a pond, lake or other still water environments, you'll generate a critter list without assessing water quality.

If you'd like to check out the app without submitting real data, you have the option of tagging your report as a trial run by choosing "not reporting on actual critters." You'll also see several new macroinvertebrate photos.

Keep an eye on the ANS Conservation Events calendar. We'll post events as they are scheduled. Hope to see you at one of our local streams this spring!

## **Conservation Cafés**

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

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

Upcoming events:



- April 12: Scott Fosler, ANS Board President and longtime Montgomery County government member and environmental advocate: "Assuring Safe and Affordable Water for the Washington Region."
- May 3:.Cathy Ledec, President of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park: "What is wildlife telling us? The award-winning Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project."
- June 7: Nadja Popovich, *New York Times* Climate Team Graphic Editor: "Using Visuals to Tell the Story of Climate Change: Lessons from the Newsroom."

## Upcoming Advocacy Workshops

## Learn more and register at www.anshome.org/ training

Prices listed below are for members/nonmembers Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

#### Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101 Tuesday, March 20 (10 am-2:30 pm) \$20/\$30

Join Audubon Naturalist Society's experts for a fun and empowering workshop at Woodend for an introduction to environmental advocacy & watershed stewardship! All are welcome. Led by Conservation Director Eliza Cava and Policy Consultant Bruce Gilmore. The focus is on clean water but the skills can apply to any environmental issue–learn how you can raise your voice for local conservation.

#### Advocacy 201: Talking with decision-makers, writing comment letters and testimony Tuesday, April 24 (6:30-8:30 pm) \$15/\$20

If you've attended our 101 workshop (or if you haven't!), come learn how to go deeper on some key advocacy skills. We'll learn via role-play and skill-building practice sessions. Led by Eliza Cava and Bruce Gilmore.

## Advocacy 202: Using online tools and social media for organizing

#### Thursday, May 24 (6:30-8:30 pm) \$15/\$20

Led by Eliza Cava and Communications & Marketing Director Caroline Brewer, this workshop will introduce you to the organizing and communication tool that ANS uses (Action Network) and show you how you can use it for your grassroots group to maximize your communication with members, the public, and decision-makers. You will also learn how to use images and social media to amplify your message!



**THANK YOU!** Thanks to amazing team members Steven Pearce (staff), Steve Ollis, David Sward, Eliza Cava (staff), and Nora Kelly (staff) who leaped into the Potomac in January to raise **\$4,868 for team ANS**! Half the money we raised goes to the Chesapeake Climate Action Network to fund their work to #KeepWinterCold, and half will support ANS Conservation.

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## Children & Family Programs

## Summer Camp Open House

#### Saturday, May 19 (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, May 19 (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.



## 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** – Creature Feature AM, Where the Wild Things Roam Full Day, Bugs Galore 2 Full Day

**1st/2nd grade** – Wild at Heart, Fiesta de Plantas, Aventuras Aquaticas, Litter Critters

**3rd/4th grade** – Camp Cuisine, Rock Creek Critters, Planet Pals, Divers and Dabblers, Bat Camp, Insectigations, Radical Reptiles, Slither and Slime

**5th/6th grade** – Farm to Table, Raptor Rapture, Nature Engineers, Audubon Rocks, Ethnobotany, Wood Wide Web, Bay Quest, Jewelry Making

7th/8th/9th grade – Beginning Backpacking

**9th/10th/11th** – Conservation Corps (earn 30 SSL hours), Advanced Mountain Outpost

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.

# 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!

## Spring Break Camp

Monday, March 26-Friday, March 30 (8:45 am-3 pm) Extended camp available from 3-6 pm Members \$347; nonmembers \$432 Register online at www.anshome.org/parents

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







### 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.



## **Tales and Trails**

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver Tuesdays, April 3-June 5 (10-10:45 am) Spring Session: \$80 per child

This 10-week class invites young children to discover the wonders of nature as we journey through the changing seasons. We'll tap into children's deep connection with nature by reading stories, making fun crafts, and singing songs. Make sure to dress for the weather as we will explore our Sanctuary trails each class to see what new surprises we can find.

Feel free to relax and enjoy our trails, picnic areas, and bookstore before or after the program. Register online at www.anshome.org/parents. Questions? Contact Gina at gina. ghertner@anshome.org.

## Weekend Walks in the Woods

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



## School's Out Camps

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

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

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



## **Campfire and Craft**

Saturday, March 10 (4-5 pm) Fee: \$10 per child, adults free

Come join us for a Campfire and Craft. We will provide all of the s'more ingredients. \$10 per child, adults are free. Please bring cash or a check. RSVP to nora.kelly@anshome.org.

### Free Beginner's **Bird Walks** Saturdays, 8-9 am

at Woodend

Weekly walks March-June. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at www.anshome.org/adults.



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

SENIOR PROGRAM (Ages 11-15) Session 1: Sunday, June 24-Saturday, July 7 FULL Session 2: Tuesday, July 10-Tuesday, July 24 Session 3: Wednesday, August 1-Tuesday, August 14 JUNIOR PROGRAM (Ages 8-10) One week 
August 19-25



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 27-Sunday, July 29

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

## **Birthday Parties**



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

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

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

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

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

Register online at www.anshome.org/parents



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



## Professional Development **NEW!** for Educators



## **Project WILD**

Saturday, April 28 (9 am-3:30pm) Price: \$25 per teacher (ANS member), \$30 nonmember Valid for ½ MSDE credit

A wildlife-focused conservation education program for K-12 educators and their students.

### **Project Wet**

Saturday, May 26 (9 am-3:30pm) Price: \$25 per teacher (ANS member), \$30 nonmember Valid for ½ MSDE credit

A hands-on workshop full of activities that cross many disciplines in the study of water and water resources.

## **Project Learning Tree**

Saturday, June 9 (9 am-3:30 pm) Price: \$45 per teacher (ANS member), \$50 nonmember Valid for ½ MSDE credit

Integrate environmental and sustainability education into teaching and become comfortable teaching outdoors—in urban, suburban, and rural environments.

All workshops are held at the Teale Learning Center at Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. Questions? Contact:Serenella.linares@anshome.org.

Register at www.anshome.org/adults under Nature Classes and Field Trips.

## 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.

#### WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR MY CHILD?



Drop d	11 61833					
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	Mondays- Thursdays	8:45-11:45am *early arrival at 8:30am	\$800/month	3-5 years	16	no
2 DAY AM Saplings	M/W T/TH	8:45-1145am *early arrival at 8:30am	\$400/month	3-5 years	16	no
PM Saplings	Mondays- Thursdays	12:45-3:15pm	\$700/month	3-5 years	16	no
2 DAY PM Saplings	м/w т/тн	12:45-3:15pm	\$350/month	3-5 years	16	no
Oaks	Mondays- Fridays	M-TH: 9am-2pm F: 9am-12pm *early arrival at 8:30am	\$1350/month	4-5 years	16	no

#### Contact Us 301-652-9188 x32 www.ANShome.org/ans-preschool

### Apply Online

www.ANShome.org/ans-preschool

#### Current School year (18-19) 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



AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

# Rust/Northern Virginia

## **Environmental Science Field** Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

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

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

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

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

## Family Program -Gifts from the Forest

#### Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg Friday, April 6 (6-8 pm) Cost: \$7 per person

Spring has arrived along with the many gifts we receive from nature. Come learn all about what nature does for us; from trees, to insects to birds and more, participants will be introduced to a new way at looking at nature and the services it provides. Our adventure ends with a snack around a warm campfire. Headlamps provided, hiking shoes suggested. Ages 8 and older.

## **Questions about Registration?**

Email Susanne Ortmann at susanne.ortmann@ anshome.org for more information or to book a school visit.

## **RUST** NATURE SANCTUARY



**KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE** 703-669-0000 ANShome.org/Rust 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia

## **Fresh Air Kids**

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

Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA Fridays (10-11:15 am) April 13-June 1 Cost: \$120 (siblings 21 months and older \$110, siblings under 21 months free) Register at www.anshome.org/parents

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

Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA Mondays (10-11am) April 9-June 4 (no class 5/28) Cost: \$100 (siblings 21 months and older \$85, siblings under 21 months free) Register at www.anshome.org/parents

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

## Naturalist in the Classroom

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Adult Programs

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

## Wild places are closer than you think. ®

## **ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS**

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adults.
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Want to become an ANS member and get the member rate? Join at the same time you register for a program.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

## Fridays at Carderock

Section B: March 9 (10 am-3 pm) Section C: April 6 (9:30 am-3 pm) Section D: May 4 (9:30 am-3 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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

## Woodcock Watch

#### Saturday, March 10 (5:15-7:15 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

In his Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold described the mating display of the American Woodcock as a "sky dance." Announcing its presence with nasal "peents," the male woodcock ascends high in the sky at dusk. To the accompaniment of a constant twittering, it circles, then plummets back to earth in a series of zigzag movements, wings whistling. On this field program to a natural area in upper Montgomery County, we'll hope to be lucky enough to catch a performance of this seasonal drama.

## Geology at the National Zoo

Saturday, March 10 (1-4 pm) Leader: Joe Marx Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

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

## Winter Hike Along the River

Sunday, March 11 (full-day hike) Potomac River, MD (5.6 mi) Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar Members \$38; nonmembers \$52

Take on two of your New Year's resolutions at once: spend more time exploring nature AND get more exercise by signing up for this hike along local waterways. We'll search for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills. All the while, we'll be searching for the early signs of Spring. Our hike follows the historic C&O Canal towpath downstream from Point of Rocks to the Monocacy Aqueduct near Dickerson, MD. *This hike is designed to offer a natural history experience for persons who want to move farther and a bit faster than the pace of most ANS field trips. Hikes may be modified depending on weather and ground conditions.* 

## How Geology Affects Plants Near **Great Falls** FREE

#### Thursday, March 15 (7-9 pm) Leader: Joe Marx Free, but registration required.

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

## **Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch**

#### Saturday, March 17 (9 am-1 pm) Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman Free, but registration required.

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

## Late Winter Birding in Howard County

#### Saturday, March 17 (full-day field trip) Leader: Mike Bowen Members: \$36; nonmembers \$50

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

## Natural Heritage Weekend: Chincoteague OPEN



Saturday, March 17 to Sunday, March 18



### Geology of Holmes Run Gorge

#### Saturday, March 17 (12-4 pm) Leader: Joe Marx Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Equinox Hike at Governor's **Bridge Natural Area**

#### Sunday, March 18 (2-6:30 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members: \$28; nonmembers \$38

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

## **Beginning Birding**

Thursday, March 22 (7:30-9:30 pm) Saturday, March 24 (8 am-2 pm) Leader: Mark England Members \$46; nonmembers \$64 Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34

If you're curious about birds and bird watching but don't know where to begin, this class is for you. No experience is required! At our evening lecture, we'll focus on the selection of field guides, binoculars, and other resources, and we'll discuss the basic techniques of birding finding and identification. The goal of our field trip, which visits Black Hill and Little Bennett Regional Parks in upper Montgomery County, is to develop the ability to find, study, and identify birds in their natural environment.





## Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm) Section A: March 28 - Carderock Section B: April 11 - Widewater Section C: April 25 - Swain's Lock Section D: May 9 - Riley's Lock Section E: May 23 - Violettes Lock Leader: Stephanie Mason Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35 Entire series \$113/\$158

## Early Spring Wildflower Hike

Friday, March 30 (9 am-1 pm) Leader: Sujata Roy Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Beat the winter blues by joining this search for the earliest signs of spring wildflowers in the woods and bottomlands along the Potomac River near Carderock Recreation Area, just outside the Beltway. We'll look for the greening leaves, swelling buds, and (fingers crossed) unfolding flowers of species such as Harbinger of Spring, Early Saxifrage, Spring Beauty, and Bloodroot. *Our field Studies Spring flower ID instructor leads this hike over some uneven, rocky and likely muddy natural surface trails on a roughly 2-mile walk.* 

## Spring in the Parks

Saturdays (8 am-12:30 pm) A: March 31 - Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA B: April 21 - Rachel Carson Park, MD C: May 12 - National Arboretum, DC Leader: Stephanie Mason Each walk members \$28; nonmembers \$38 Entire series: \$76; nonmembers \$103

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

## Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

A. Saturday, March 31 – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (John Bjerke) **FULL** B. Saturday, April 14 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Mike Bowen) C. Sunday, April 29 – Blue Mash, MD **FULL** (Mark England) D. Saturday, May 5 – Riverbend Park, VA (Mike Bowen) E. Sunday, May 13 – Governor's Bridge, MD **FULL** (Mark England) F. Sunday, May 27 – Riley's Lock, MD (John Bjerke) **FULL** Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Immerse yourself in the phenomenon of spring migration with this series of short bird walks at nearby parks. These walks are designed for beginning and intermediate birders for whom the spring pulse of bird activity can sometimes be overwhelming. On each walk, we'll search for both resident and migrant birds by song and sound. We'll discuss the arrival sequence the spring travelers, practice spotting them in the field, and attempt to learn the songs of many species. *Our trips include walking on natural surface trails, which may be muddy, slippery and uneven. Walk C will include some uphill/downhill walking.* 

### A Year at Theodore Roosevelt Island

A: Budbreak and Spring Wildflower Walk, Wednesday, April 4 (10 am-2 pm) B: Summer Kayaking Trip with Stephanie Mason, Wednesday, July 18 (10 am-1 pm) C: Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, November 7 (10 am-2 pm) D: Late Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, December 5 (10 am-2 pm) Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley Each walk: members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and *City of Trees*, for a year-long exploration of Theodore Roosevelt Island, a 90-acre island in the Potomac that serves as a fitting memorial to our conservationist and naturalist 26th president—and Audubon Naturalist Society member! In the early spring, we'll witness the miracle of budbreak among the island's remarkable trees and see the floodplain forest come alive with Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, trout lilies, and trilliums. During summer, ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason will join us for a kayaking trip around the island, launching from Key Bridge Boathouse on the Georgetown waterfront. We'll paddle under the island's graceful silver maples and sycamores, get close to the summer wildflowers along the shore, and watch herons, egrets, wood ducks and—hopefully—the noisy kingfisher! As a bonus, we'll be treated to stunning views of the



Lincoln Memorial and the "City of Trees" on the horizon. Our fall tree walks will take us deep into the swamp and tidal inlet along the boardwalk where willows, bald-cypresses and cattails frame views of the city behind it. Melanie will share details of the island's fascinating history during this year-long exploration and we'll witness the ebb and flow of the Potomac tides along with the changing seasons. *Fee for trip B does not include canoe or kayak rental.* 

## Introduction to Wildflower ID

Thursday, April 5 (7:30-9:30 pm) Saturday, April 7 (9:30 am-3 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members \$48; nonmembers \$68 Lecture only members \$25; nonmembers \$35

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

## A Year in Rock Creek Park

B: Spring Wildflower and Budbreak Walk at Boundary Bridge, Saturday April 7 (9:30 am-2:30 pm) C: Nearing the Solstice Nature Walk at Boundary Bridge, Saturday June 16 (9:30 am-2:30 pm) D: Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park, Saturday November 3 (9:30 am-3:30 pm) Members \$34; nonmembers \$42

In 2017, the award-winning author of A Year in Rock Creek Park completed 11 years of her popular walks for ANS titled "A Year at Boundary Bridge." This year, Melanie Choukas-Bradley will branch out into other areas of Rock Creek Park, the country's oldest urban national park, created in 1890. On the April walk, we will witness the annual floral miracle of Virginia bluebells, spring beauties and trout lilies in the floodplain forest, in addition to the leaves of tulip tree and American beech spilling from their buds. In June, we'll revisit the dense canopy of floodplain forest and upland woods of the Boundary Bridge area as we observe and enjoy trees, seasonal wildflowers and nesting birds. Autumn will find us hiking the Western Ridge and Valley Trails during peak autumn foliage and fruiting season, stopping to study and admire trees along the route. The Boundary Bridge Walks will each cover a 2.5 mile loop on natural surface trails with moderate uphill and downhill. The Fall Hike will traverse 4-6 miles, with uphill and downhill on natural surface trails which may be rocky and uneven.

## The Magic of Early Spring Woods

#### Sunday, April 8 (9 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Carole Bergmann Members: \$26; nonmembers \$36

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

## Window into the World of Fungi

Thursday, April 12 (7-9:30 pm) Leader: Tovi Lehmann Free, but registration required.



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

## Bluebells in the Bottomland

Friday, April 13 (10 am-1 pm) Leader: Marney Bruce Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

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

Geology Hike at Carderock Saturday, April 14 (1-5 pm) Leader: Joe Marx Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

AUDUBON	ON NATURALIS	ALIST SOCIETY			20		anshome.org/events-calendar	calen	ıdar
Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Mar 8	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		28	Apr 17	9 am	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	≻	18
Mar 9	10 am	Fridays at Carderock B	≻	16	Apr 18	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	≻	22
Mar 10	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	п	7 pm	Stream Ecology begins	≻	30
п	"	Patuxent River Park bird walk		29	Apr 19	6 pm	Butterflies of Spring begins	≻	31
п	9:30 am	Macro ID Review & Quiz		28	Apr 20	6:45 pm	Evening on the Canal	≻	
"	1 pm	Geology at the National Zoo	≻	16	Apr 21	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
п	4 pm	Campfire and Craft	≻	13	п	п	Spring in the Parks B	≻	18
п	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	≻	16	п	9 am	River Herring Return to Rock Creek		22
Mar 11	full day	Winter Hike Along the River	≻	16	п	4:30 pm	Spring in Your Step		22
Mar 13	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		29	Apr 22	7 am	Wheaton Regional Park bird walk		29
Mar 15	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		29	п	8 am	Earth Day Along the River	≻	
"	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology B	≻	28	Apr 24	6:30 pm	Advocacy 201	≻	10
п	"	How Geology Affects Plants		17	Apr 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		29
Mar 17	full day	Late Winter Birding in Howard County	≻	17	"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal C	≻	18
"	8 am	Natural Heritage Weekend: Chincoteague	≻	17	Apr 26	7:30 pm	Smitten by Frogs	≻	23
"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		17	Apr 27	8:45 am	DCPS School's Out Camp	≻	13
"	9 am	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges			Apr 28	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
"	9:30 am	Field Workshop: Ten Mile Creek	≻	28	"	9 am	Project WILD (Educator Workshop)	≻	14
"	12 pm	Geology of Holmes Run Gorge	≻		Apr 29	7 am	Spring Early Birds C	≻	18
Mar 18	2 pm	Equinox Hike at Governor's Bridge	≻	17	May 2	10:30 am	lt's May - and All is Abloom	≻	23
"	3:15 pm	Your Neighborhood Your Health		6	May 3	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	≻	10
Mar 20	10 am	Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101	≻	10	May 4	10 am	Fridays at Carderock	≻	16
Mar 22	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	≻	17	May 5	7 am	Spring Early Birds D	≻	18
Mar 24	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	п	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
Mar 26	8:45 am	Spring Break Camp	≻	12	п	8:30 am	Geology of TR Island	≻	23
Mar 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		29	n	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		12
"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal A	≻	18	May 6				

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9 am	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	≻	18	May 6	9 am	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	≻	18
7 am	Spring Early Birds A	≻	18	May 9	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal D	≻	18
8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	May 11	8:30 am	Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac	≻	23
п	Spring in the Parks A	≻	18	May 12	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
10 am	Tales and Trails begins	≻	12	н	п	Spring in the Parks C	≻	18
10 am	Budbreak and Spring Wildflower Walk	≻	18	May 13	7 am	Spring Early Birds E	≻	18
7 pm	How to Read Your Stream	≻	28	п	п	C&O Canal, MD bird walk		29
7:30 pm	Intro to Wildflower ID	≻	19	May 17	7:30 pm	Advanced Dragonfly Studies	≻	24
9:30 am	Fridays at Carderock	≻	16	May 18	10 am	Art and Nature Sketching Workshop	≻	24
6 pm	Gifts from the Forest	≻	15	May 19	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	"	п	Smallwood State Park bird walk		29
9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		12		8:30 am	Geology of Scott's Run	≻	24
9:30 am	Spring Wildflower and Budbreak Walk	≻	19	н	9:30 am	Know Your Invasive Plants	≻	28
9 am	The Magic of Early Spring Woods	≻	19	п	10 am	Summer Camp Open House		7
10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian Park begins	≻	15	п	п	Children's Garden Open House		1
6 pm	The Living Soil begins	≻	30	May 22	7:30 pm	Intro to Bird ID by Voice	≻	24
10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal B	≻	18	May 23	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal E	≻	18
6:30 pm	Spring Flower Identification begins	≻	30	May 24	6:30 pm	Advocacy 202	≻	10
7 pm	Window into the World of Fungi		19	May 25	8:45 am	DCPS School's Out Camp	≻	13
"	Conservation Cafe	≻	10	п	10 am	Spring Hike on Sugarloaf	≻	24
10 am	Bluebells in the Bottomland	≻	19					
"	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	≻	15			Special Event		
7 am	Spring Early Birds B	≻	18			Children and Family Program		
8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22			<ul> <li>Adult Program</li> <li>Natural History Field Studies</li> </ul>		
1 pm	Geology Hike at Carderock	≻	19			Rust (VA) Activities and Events		
2 pm	The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers	≻	22					
8 am	Pennyfield in the Spring bird walk		29			Y = Fee-based program		
7 pm	Biology for Naturalists begins	≻	30					

SPRING 2018

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anshome.org/events-calendar

## The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

#### Sunday, April 15 (2-4:30 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

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

## Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Spring Walk: Wednesday, April 18 (10 am-Noon) Summer Walk: Thursday, July 26 (10 am-Noon) Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Explore the Blair Native Plant Garden, located just outside the Naturalist 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.

## Evening on the Canal

#### Friday, April 20 (6:45-8:45 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Early spring evenings can be alive with wildlife as you'll discover on this stroll from Pennyfield Lock up the C&O Canal towpath. We'll watch for wildlife as the sun sets, and as twilight gives way to the darkness of night, we'll listen for calling frogs and hooting Barred Owls while discussing the adaptations of these and other nocturnal animals.

## River Herring Return to Rock Creek

#### Saturday, April 21 (9 am-1 pm) Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman Free, but registration required.

Tom Horton describes the annual Rock Creek migration of river herring in Bay Country: "No finer parade, or one more unappreciated, ever swung through this capital than the quicksilver legions of Alosa pseudoharengus, the common river herring." On our 21st (!) annual herring walk, we hope to view the spawning run and discuss opportunities for restoring fish migration to Rock Creek. We will visit the fish ladder at Peirce Mill, then walk south on the hiker/biker path to the National Zoo. Meet at the Cleveland Park Metro Station. The walk will end at the Woodley Park/National Zoo/Adams Morgan Station.

## Spring in Your Step

Saturday, April 21 (4:30-6:30 pm) Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves Free, but registration required.



The early bird may get the worm, but late afternoon can be a rewarding time to birdwatch as well. Join us on a 2-3 mile stroll on the paved Black Hill Hiker/Biker Trail in Black Hill Regional Park, with views of Lake Seneca. We'll look and listen for birds such as Belted Kingfisher and Bald Eagle as well as migrants such as Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. Limited to 12 participants. This walk is aimed at beginning birders.

## Earth Day Along the River

#### Sunday, April 22 (8 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join this Earth Day exploration of the season's great burst of life in the bottomland woods along the Potomac River just above Great Falls, MD. Our Senior Naturalist leads this search for spring wildflowers, blooming trees, and early spring wildlife activity, including birds, butterflies, and amphibians. The natural surface river trail is mostly level, but could be muddy. Our roundtrip walk is roughly 2.5 miles.

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.

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

Weekly walks March-June. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at www.anshome.org/adults.

## Smitten by Frogs

#### Thursday, April 26 (7:30-9:30 pm) Saturday, April 28 (7-9 pm field trip) Leader: Richard Schubert Members \$42; nonmembers \$58 Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Unlike the ideal Victorian child, frogs are mostly heard and not seen. We have 20 species of these anurans in Maryland, including the recently-discovered Kauffeld's (Atlantic Coast) Leopard Frog, the first new frog discovered on the east coast in over 130 years! We will discuss visual and auditory identification of local frogs, and review their varying habits, adaptations, and preferred habitat/location, with special emphasis on Montgomery County. To complement the evening lecture at Woodend Sanctuary, there will be an early evening field trip to McKee-Beshers Wildlife management Area near Poolesville. Our leader, an ANS member who is smitten by frogs, aims for hearing or seeing at least 6 (or hopefully 7) species.

## It's May-and All Is Abloom

#### Wednesday, May 2 (10:30 am-1 pm) Leader: Marney Bruce Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

The display of spring wildflowers is remarkably rich in the varied habitats along the Potomac River close-in to our metro-area. From moist bottomlands to rocky, forested uplands, the woods in May beckon with blooms underfoot and spring-green leaves overhead. Our leader is excited share her love and knowledge of the spring flora of Riverbend Park (VA) on this early May outing. *Our explorations will be on natural surface trails which may be muddy and/or slippery, with some mild to moderate uphill and downhill.* 

## Geology of Theodore Roosevelt Island

Saturday, May 5 (8:30-11:30 am) Leader: Joe Marx Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Theodore Roosevelt Island is a showcase of geology, befitting the energetic environmentalist whom it honors. Ancient Piedmont bedrock exposures occur at the northern end, while modern Coastal Plain deposits form the eastern and southern portions. Surrounded by the Potomac River, the island features natural levees and backswamps (like the Mississippi), a tidal inlet and marsh (like Chincoteague), and garnet-bearing rocks (like the Blue Ridge). All within walking distance of the Metro! We'll hike several miles around the island, interpreting the story told by the rocks and soil. *The pace set and distance covered on this geology field trip is typically faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."* 

## Spring Warbler Walk

#### Sunday, May 6 (7-11 am) Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

More than 30 species of warblers pass through the mid-Atlantic during spring migration—but finding and properly identifying these active songbirds can be a real challenge. Our leaders, both long-time birders in the area, will aim this teaching trip at beginning to mid-level birders. The walk will begin at Pennyfield Lock and then move upriver to Riley's Lock along the Potomac C&O Canal.

## Glorious Spring in Little Bennett Park

#### Sunday, May 6 (9 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Carole Bergmann Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

At 3,700 acres, Little Bennett Regional Park near Clarksburg, MD, is a park where you can still get lost. Its richness in plant diversity is due to its many habitats, including mature forest, shrub thicket, meadow, wetland and floodplain forest. On this hike of around 3 miles, Montgomery County's forest ecologist will introduce you to many of these habitats' plant communities in their glorious spring flush of growth. *Expect some uphill and downhill walking on natural surface trails which may be muddy and/or slippery.* 

# Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac

#### Friday, May 11 (8:30 am-3 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

Spring has sprung and the towpath along the Potomac River is one of the finest places in the DC-metro area to experience the season's richness. In order to cover more territory and visit more habitats, we'll use bikes to explore the stretch from Swain's Lock to Riley's Lock, a 12.3 mile round-trip ride. We'll dismount often to look for spring wildflowers, butterflies and other insects, and reptiles and amphibians, all the while keeping an eye and ear open for spring migrants and other breeding bird activity. Bring your own bike.



This ANS service offers weekly reports of sightings of rare or notable birds. Email voice@ANShome. org or visit ANShome.org/ voice. SPRING 2018



### Advanced Dragonfly Studies: Common Darners, Spiketails, Cruisers & Clubtails of the Mid-Atlantic

#### Thursday, May 17 (7:30-9:30 pm) Sunday, May 20 (3/4 day field trip) Leader: Richard Orr Members \$48; nonmembers \$68 Lecture only: \$25/\$35

Join entomologist and dragonfly expert Richard Orr for this advanced series of classes on this region's dragons and damsels of the air. Our instructor will combine an evening presentation with a field trip to Patuxent Research Area/North Tract where we'll hope to see many species in action. This is the second of three classes which will cover field ID of all the dragonfly and damselfly groups in our area. Look for: Common Damselflies in 2019; and Common Skimmers and Emeralds in 2020.

## Art and Nature Sketching Workshop

#### Friday, May 18 (10 am-2:30 pm) Leader:TinaThieme Brown Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Create a sketchbook or journal page following a walk at our Woodend Sanctuary under the guidance of the artist of the Sugarloaf Mountain books and the Illustrated Agricultural Reserve Map. After a brief introduction, Tina will lead you on a walk, pausing for you to record seasonal observations in your sketchbook. After returning to the classroom, she will show you a few of her sketchbooks, introduce you to favorite sketching art supplies, and guide you through the steps to create your own sketchbook page. The only experience required is a love for nature, and a desire to look closely at spring's seasonal features. *A list of art supplies will be provided with your confirmation letter.* 

## Geology of Scott's Run

#### Saturday, May 19 (8:30 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Joe Marx Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Scotts Run Nature preserve is a 336-acre tract of Virginia woods, ravines and palisades just upstream from the American Legion Bridge. The landscape varies from rolling upland and a narrow stream valley to rocky cliffs and riverine floodplain. The bedrock was formed in an ocean that was extinguished during the assembly of the super-continent Pangea. One clearly visible landform in essentially a stretch mark attendant to the opening of the Atlantic. We will hike a circuit of two miles on unpaved trails that will occasionally be rocky and steep as we observe both rocks and forest. *The pace set and distance covered on our geology hikes will be faster and farther than our usual "naturalists' shuffle.*"

## Introduction to Bird ID by Voice

Tuesday, May 22 (7:30-9 pm) Thursday, May 24 (7:30-9 pm) Saturday, May 26 (7 am-Noon) Leader: Mark England Members \$50; nonmembers \$70

The sounds made by birds can help find and identify many species, yet to beginning birders, the wide variety of sounds can be confusing. If you know many of our area birds by sight but not by sound, this class is for you. Two evening sessions will use recordings and slides to study bird songs and calls. Our field trip to one or more sites in Montgomery County will give us a chance to listen for and try to learn some of the local species.

## Spring Hike on Sugarloaf

#### Friday, May 25 (10 am-3 pm) Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Tina Thieme Brown Members \$34; nonmembers \$42

The author and the artist of two books about Sugarloaf Mountain team up once again for a seasonal outing devoted to the botany, wildlife, geology, and history of our local monadnock in the rural Piedmont northwest of Washington, D.C. The 1.5 mile hike is timed to coincide with High Spring's greening of the Sugarloaf Mountain woodlands and many plants, including mountain laurel and fringe-tree. Bring binoculars to look for Wood Thrushes, Warblers, Ravens, and other bird species. After lunch, Tina will show you how to approach a quick leaf sketch, and Melanie will introduce the concept of "forest bathing," time permitting. *Our hike includes uphill/downhill walking over rocky trails and a fairly steep ¼ mile hike up to the summit—all at a leisurely pace*.

## Breeding Bird Walk at Jug Bay Natural Area of Patuxent River Park

#### Saturday, June 2 (7-11 am) Leader: John Bjerke Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Breeding birds are excellent environmental indicators, and breeding bird surveys generate important data for monitoring the health of ecosystems. We'll explore woods and marshes to search out both common and uncommon breeders of this wetland habitat. We'll discuss the breeding strategies of species such as Osprey, Northern Parula, and White-eyed Vireo, among others, as well as the types of census techniques which ornithologists and citizen scientists use to determine population levels and trends. We'll walk up to 2.5 miles at a leisurely pace on natural surface paths and boardwalk. Our leader has participated in the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

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

#### **Butterflies of Finzel Swamp**

Saturday, June 9 (10 am-5 pm) Leader: Rick Borchelt

#### Natural Heritage Series: Elliott Island

Saturday, June 9 (2:30-11 pm) Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

#### Becoming a Latin Lover

Sunday, June 10 (8:30-11:30 am) Leader: Kit Sheffield

#### Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am) A: June 20 - Pennyfield Lock B: June 27 - Riley's Lock C: July 18 - Carderock D: July 25 - Swain's Lock Leader: Stephanie Mason

#### Summer Walks on the Wild Side

A: Sunday, June 24 (8-11:30 am) - Blue Mash B: Wednesday, July 4 (8-11:30 am) - Kenilworth C: Sunday, July 29 (8-11:30 am) - Huntley Meadows Leaders: Stephanie Mason & Cathy Stragar

## Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 23

#### B is for Butterfly

Saturday, June 30 (9 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason

#### Natural Heritage Series: West Virginia Highlands

Saturday, July 7 (9 am) to Monday, July 9 (5 pm) Leader: Mark Garland

#### Bees in the Backyard

Saturday, July 7 (9 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Kit Sheffield

#### Six-legged Songsters of Summer

Thursday, July 19 (7:30-10 pm) Leader: Cathy Stragar

#### Summer Stroll at Suitland Bog

Saturday, July 21 (9 am-noon) Leader: Sujata Roy

# Butterfly Specialties of the Eastern Shore

Saturday, July 21 (10 am-5 pm) Leader: Rick Borchelt

#### Fern Basics

Sunday, July 22 (9 am-12:30 pm) Leader: Kit Sheffield

#### Sunset Stroll in the Hollow

Sunday, July 22 (6:30-8:30 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason

#### Summer Butterfly Stroll

Saturday, July 28 (9 am-1 pm) Leader: Stephanie Mason

# Introduction to Dragonflies & Damselflies

Thursday, August 2 (7:30-9:30 pm) & Sunday, August 5 (3/4 day field trip) Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Richard Orr

### Morning Paddle on the Potomac

Saturday, August 4 (9-11:30 am) Leader: Sujata Roy



# **Feature Photos**





Northern Pearly-Eye by ANS member Michael Bender



Eastern Box Turtle at Woodend by ANS member Frank Boyle

## Stream Science

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

## **Registration & Fee Information**

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

## Introduction to Stream Science\*



#### Healthy Stream Biology

**Classroom Session** 

Classroom Section B: Thursday, March 15 (7-9:30 pm) Classroom Section C:Tuesday, June 5 (7-9:30 pm) Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD (Both Sections B & C cover the same material)

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

#### Field Workshop

#### Section A: Saturday, March 17 (9:30 am-12 pm) Section B: Saturday, June 9 (9:30 am-12 pm) Ten Mile Creek, Boyds, MD

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



## Macroinvertebrate ID Review & Quiz FREE

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD Section A: Thursday, March 8 (6:30-9 pm) Section B: Saturday, March 10 (9:30-12 pm) (Sections A and B cover the same material) No fee

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

## How to Read Your Stream\*

#### Thursday, April 5 (7-9:30 pm) Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Citizen Science

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

### **Know Your Invasive Plants**

Woodend Sanctuary (Teale) Chevy Chase, MD Saturday, May 19 (9:30 am-12 pm)



Invasive plants that kill or bring down mature trees can seriously alter stream health and ecosystem function. Volunteer Master Naturalist Diyan Rahaman will help you identify non-native invasive plants at Woodend and in nearby Rock Creek Park. An ANS/Rock Creek Conservancy Partnership.

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

## Free Birding Trips March-June

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

#### MARCH

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

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

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

#### Saturday, March 10

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

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

#### Wednesday, March 28

#### Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

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.

#### APRIL

#### Tuesday, April 17 Pennyfield in the Spring, Tra-Ia!

An easy 3- to 4-hour walk, looking for lingering winter visitors and early spring migrants and wildflowers. **Meet time/place**: 8 am at Pennyfield Lock on the C&O Canal. **Make reservation** (8-person limit) with Lydia Schindler, lydia13621@gmail.com (preferred) or 301-977-5252.

#### Sunday, April 22

#### Wheaton Regional Park, Montgomery County, MD

Half day. We'll look for early migrants—warblers, flycatchers, vireos, and orioles (among others). **Meet time/place:** 7 am at the Shorefield Road parking lot. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Marc Liebermann at mdlieberm@gmail.com.

#### Wednesday, April 25

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA See March 28 listing for details.

#### MAY

#### Sunday, May 13 C&O Canal, MD Areas

Half day. Songbirds, waterbirds, raptors. **Meet time/place**: 7 am in parking lot at Riley's Lock on the Canal. **Reservations not required.** For more info, contact leader Tony Futcher, 301-422-3927 or tonyfutcher1@verizon.net.

#### Saturday, May 19

Smallwood State Park, Charles County, MD Half day. Smallwood State Park (2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658) is a great location for Louisiana Waterthrush and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Good mixed habitat for migrants. Joint trip with SoMD Audubon. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at the Pavilion parking area just before the historic General Smallwood Retreat House. \$3 entrance fee. **Make reservation** with leader Lynne Wheeler at 301-751-8097 (prefer text) or somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

#### Wednesday, May 30

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 28 listing for details.

#### JUNE

#### Sunday, June 3

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 (see website for directions). Insect repellent highly advised, as is waterproof footwear. Extra water and sunscreen also recommended. **Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Paul DeAnna, 202-544-2680 or ppdeanna47@gmail.com.

#### Sunday, June 10 Fort C.F. Smith Park, Arlington, VA

One-third day. Nesting songbirds in woods, edge, and meadow habitat. There may be muddy conditions. **Meet time/place:** 7 am in parking lot. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Karen Fairweather, twofairs@msn.com or 703-841-1299.

#### Wednesday, June 27 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 28 listing for details.



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



## Natural History Field Studies



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

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

## The Living Soil

NATH1175E, 2 credits Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm Class meetings: April 9-June 18 Field Trip dates: April 28, May 19, and June 9 Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro) Tuition: \$365

#### Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Knowledge of soils is basic to understanding plant communities and ecosystems. Examine the nature of soils and their influence on environment. Learn the structure, properties and the classification of soils and the significance of these factors to plant growth and other uses. Discover life in the soil, and study the soil groups and natural land resource areas of the Central Atlantic region. Previous courses in wetlands and biology are helpful. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.

## **Biology for Naturalists**

NATH1110E, 2 credits Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm Class meetings: April 17-June 19 Field trip dates: May 5, June 2, June 16 Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD Tuition: \$365 Instructor: Paula Wang

Explore the basic biological principles and processes that govern the natural world. Our evolutionary and ecological lens focuses on mechanisms, patterns, relationships, adaptations, and environmental influences. Topics include the cell and the genetic basis of life; evolution; biological diversity and the tree of life; a comparative survey of the plant and animal kingdoms; and an introduction to ecology. Labs, outdoor activities and field trips provide hands-on opportunities to apply course content. This course is recommended background for other courses in the Natural History Field Studies Certificate program. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.

## **Spring Flower Identification**

NATH7135E, 3 CEUs Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm Class meetings: April 11-June 6 Field trip dates: April 21, May 5, May 19, and June 2; students must attend 3 of the 4 trips. Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD Tuition: \$365 Instructor: Sujata Roy

Learn to recognize common spring wildflowers. Increase your enjoyment of the season by learning about flower identification, the relationships of plants, and how they are classified. Gain an appreciation for the rich flora of the Central Atlantic region through study of the principal spring-blooming plant families in the area. Field trips emphasize practice in recognizing diagnostic characteristics and in using identification keys. The field trips feature some of the area's best wildflower locations. Recommended: a 10x hand lens. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.

## Stream Ecology

NATH8217E, 3 CEUs Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm Class meetings: April 18-June 13 Field trip dates: May 5 and June 2 Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD Tuition: \$365 Instructor: Jai Cole

This course will focus on stream ecosystems and the humancaused stressors that affect them. Topics include stream structure and function, benthic macroinvertebrate and freshwater fish ecology and identification, ecological interactions, and stormwater management and ecological restoration. At the end of this course, students will have an understanding of physical, chemical and biological processes of streams and rivers, plus the field and laboratory methods commonly used by ecologists to study and restore the health of streams. On field trips, students will visit a stream restoration site, identify fish and benthic macroinvertebrate habitat types, sample for benthic macroinvertebrates, and visit the fall-line Northwest Branch stream. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.

## Spring Courses April-June

## **Butterflies of Spring**



NATH8272E, 1.5 CEUs Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm Class meetings: April 19-May 17 Field trip dates: April 21, April 28, May 12, with Sunday rain dates. Location: Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro) Tuition: \$269 Instructor: Rick Borchelt

Because they spend time as caterpillars feeding on specific host plants but range widely for nectar as adults, butterflies are sensitive indicators of plant diversity and habitat quality. Participants will learn to identify adult butterflies of the region; study butterfly conservation based on an expanded understanding of butterfly biology, behavior and habitat requirements; and learn how to contribute meaningfully to citizen science projects that track butterfly population dynamics and ranges. Saturday field trips will include opportunities to observe rare and endangered species that are subjects of ongoing conservation efforts, and to participate in one or more official annual butterfly counts. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.



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#### Wetland Ecosystems

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD Instructor: Terry McTigue

#### **Non-Native Invasive Plants**

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD Instructor: Kerry Wixted

#### Insect Life

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD Instructor: Cathy Stragar

#### Introduction to Fungi

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD Instructor: Tovi Lehmann

#### Summer Bird Life

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD Instructor: Gemma Radko

#### Ferns and Lycophytes

Thursdays, Capital Gallery, DC (L'Enfant Metro) Instructor: Carl Taylor

### **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.



## AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY Nature Travel 🞉

#### Discover a new world!

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

# California's Coastal Diversity March 17-24, 2018

#### Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn & Rob Gibbs

Contact Carol at carol.hayes@ANShome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 to be put on the waitlist..

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

#### August 8-19, 2018 WAITLIST OPEN June 9-20, 2018 SECOND TRIP ADDED Leaders: Mark Garland and Jordan Rutter

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



## 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.

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

#### September 13-22, 2018 Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Mark England

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

### Australia - Natural History "Down Under"

#### November 4-17, 2018 Optional Extension to November 23 Leaders: Mark Garland & Steve Potter

Explore the rugged landscapes and rich wildlife communities of Australia on this new ANS Travel Program. Our tour is focused on the southern part of Australia, where spring will be in full splendor during the month of November. Our loop from Melbourne to Adelaide visits a wide variety of habitats, including forests, scrublands, plains, rivers, marshes, and mountains. Birds are a major focus, and there are many spectacular species for us to find, but we'll also search for other wildlife, learn some of the more widespread plants, discuss geology, and learn about the long history of the Australian aboriginal people. Our optional extension visits Queensland, in the tropical northeast corner of Australia, and features a full day visit to the Great Barrier Reef.

## 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.

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

#### February, 2019 Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos "Charlie" Gomez

Our Senior Naturalist has just returned from this year's annual sojourn to Costa Rica—and she's already started planning next winter's trip! This will be her 21st year as an ANS leader to this small tropical wonderland with amazing diversity of plant and animal life. Our trip next February will visit the moist Caribbean lowlands, midlands, and highlands, before ending up in the tropical dry forest of the country's northwest Pacific lowlands. Call to receive the full itinerary and registration information as soon as the planning is complete. Or keep watching our website for details, which will be posted once plans are finalized.

## Galapagos Islands: Darwin's Wild Classroom

#### June 21-30, 2019 Leaders Stephanie Mason, Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis & local guides

A trip to Ecuador's Galapagos Islands is one of the world's greatest natural history excursions. Planning has begun for our fourth trip collaboration with industry leader Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours. Watch for more details as they become available.

## Tanzania: East African Wildlands and Wildlife

#### Late 2019 or early 2020 Leaders: Stephanie Mason and local guides

Our Senior Naturalist can't stop talking about the sights and sounds she experienced on a wildlife safari to Tanazania late last year. From giraffes to bee-eaters, from leopards to hornbills, an amazing assortment of animals were encountered and photographed in their natural environments. Planning has begun for an ANS trip to this stable East African nation with visits to the renowned Ngorongoro Crater and vast Serengetti grasslands. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@ANShome.org if you'd like to receive information on the trip when it's available.



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

January Board Meeting -B. Lin Catering

Photo for ANS ad in Bethesda Magazine - Rodney Bailey Photojournalism

# Audubon Naturalist Shop

Spring Birdseed Sale April 1-30

## 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!



## Independent Audubons Lobby for Environmental Protection



Did you know that ANS is *independent* but not *alone*? On February 7-9, our partner Independent Audubon Societies, from Maine, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Kansas, Connecticut, Montana, and Rhode Island, came to visit us in DC. Taking the opportunity to visit the nation's capital, ANS hosted our friends on a Lobby Day over, under, and through Capitol Hill on February 8. We met with 18 Congressional and Senatorial offices, with guidance from our colleague at the Choose Clean Water Coalition, Peter Marx. Our fellow "Indies" really appreciated the opportunity to build relationships with their representatives, and we raised our voices together to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, preserve funding for environmental programs, and protect our nation's key environmental and wildlife laws. Special thank you to our friends at Howard Hughes Medical Institute for hosting our gathering at their facility near Woodend. As a group of independent organizations, we have shared roots in the history of bird conservation but have each evolved and adapted over time to meet the needs of our local communities, which we reflected in our Lobby Day meetings—you can imagine the differences in conversations between Kansas and Maryland!



### People Power Emphasized at 2018 Taking Nature Black Conference

The 2nd ever Taking Nature Black Conference emphasized the power of people, especially people united as one, to bring about positive change. And doesn't the environmental movement need that now? Enjoy our photos. See more on Flickr and at anshome.org/taking-nature-black. Read more there and on the Conservation Blog. Photos courtesy of Kevin Lukusa.



Lunch Keynote Speakers



Nature in Your Neighborhood and Peer Conversations Panel



DaJuan Gay, Youth Environmental Champion



Engaging Elected Officials Panel



Panel on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



TNB Sponsor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Breakfast Keynote Speakers



Taking Control of Your Career Panel

# Bloomn' Birdathon

## How Can You Support ANS While Having Fun? Let Us Count the Ways.

#### By Sarah Fraidin

April 15 marks the beginning of this year's Bloomin' Birdathon – the 38<sup>th</sup> year of this fun and effective fundraiser for ANS. Several of our members who go out and count birds and blooms to raise money for ANS have been participating in this event for years. We decided to ask them why they do it and what it means for ANS programs.

Just like Mother's Day, New Year's Eve or the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the ANS annual Bloomin' Birdathon is a celebration with traditions and rituals that many people look forward to year after year.

Long-time participant Cecily Nabors says for her it's a sign that spring is here...migration is beginning.

"Another confirmation the world is proceeding as it should. Natural history is following its cycles, life-affirming or something. By George, it worked again!"

Each year the participants gather sponsors to donate money for each bird or plant species they identify in a 24-hour span.

Cecily Nabors donates a dollar per species in honor of her four grandchildren. David Cottingham, his wife, Anne, and their two friends, make a weekend out of it on Chincoteague Island.

Paul D'Andrea remembers his first Birdathon when he and his 10-year-old daughter were surrounded by bird calls but didn't know how to identify them "like a descent into madness." Now his young son has joined the yearly adventure and it has made them better birders.



ANS member and talented artist, Diane Ford, always provides the art-work for her and Cecily Nabor's Bloomin' Birdathon report to their sponsors.

Dottie Beck participated in the very first ANS Bloomin' Birdathon almost 40 years ago. She says despite the fact that she can no longer hear the bird calls she doesn't want to give it up, so this year, she says she will count blossoms instead of birds.

"I don't have to listen to them and they hold still."

They all love the challenge of finding more blooms or birds than the previous year - or maybe a really memorable one - like the Cerulean Warbler, a Common Gallinule, a Cedar Waxwing, a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a Bobolink, or a Horned Lark.

ANS bird-walk leader Stephen Jones recalls a time when the weather conditions were horrible, but he was "in the right place at the right time" to see an Indigo Bunting.

For Peter Munroe and Patricia Bagley, it was a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak and a family of Hairy Woodpeckers during feeding time. But to be honest, their most memorable sighting during the Bloomin' Birdathon wasn't a bird or a plant. It was a bobcat!

"That was a thrill we will never forget!"

For so many, this is how they met their best friends and that camaraderie keeps them coming back.

A mutual love of birding helped Lisa Norwalk meet her future husband Leonard Bisson. Now married for nine years, she initially replied to his match.com profile because he was a birder. She told him, "I don't know if I want to date you, but I definitely want to go birding with you!"

Diane Ford and Cecily Nabors became "birding buddies" 15 years ago because they were both wearing binoculars in Rock Creek Park. Now the ladies have a loyal group of sponsors who eagerly await their annual Bloomin' Birdathon report, including drawings by Diane.

Diane calls it a way to spread the love. "I like the idea that they are being exposed to nature. Living in this world is not made up of video games and staying indoors."



The dynamic duo: ANS Senior Naturalist, Stephanie Mason, and ANS Office Manager, Pam Oves, try to outcount themselves every year. Let's see if they can top 90 species this year.

ANS NEWS

ANS Board member, Nancy Pielemeier, brought her sharp-eyed granddaughter, Kayla, to help her spot more birds during last year's Board Birdathon along the C&O Canal.



85-year-old Sheila Cochran started birding in second grade. She is thrilled that the Birdathon was the catalyst for two of her friends to become avid birders. "I don't know what I would have done without birding in my life."

Most of all, these Bloomin' Birdathon participants feel good about supporting an organization they cherish.

David Cottingham explains, "I give money to a lot of environmental organizations but ANS is more than an environmental organization that is complaining about things. This is an organization where you can learn things. The educational program is unsurpassed!"

Thank you, David, and to all of our Bloomin' Birdathon veterans. Indeed, our motto is always *Enjoy, Learn, Protect* and anyone who participates in this wonderful fundraiser will always enjoy the experience and we encourage you to join in the fun. Participants may solicit sponsors or pledge to donate to ANS based on the number of species counted. So, as the weather warms up and the early migrants start returning to our area, go to www.anshome.org/birdathon to join a team, sponsor a team, or participate with a direct gift to the Bloomin' Birdathon.

This is a very important fundraiser for us. Our goal this year is \$25,000. All donations are tax-deductible and directly benefit ANS's important environmental education and conservation programs. Join in the fun today and thank you for your support.

### SPRING IN WASHINGTON



Louis J Halle



**Ride the ANS Butterfly Bus** along the route of Louis Halle's iconic book Spring in Washington with ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason

Sunday, April 29, 2018 | 7:00 am-12:00 noon Purchase tickets at www.anshome.org/spring-in-washington Ticket price includes the tour, brunch and a copy of the book.

## New benefit for ANS members

Woodend Nature Sanctuary is a unique and beautiful place. It is not surprising that many people want to rent Woodend for

weddings and other special events. Recently, this has included ANS family members holding memorial services at Woodend to celebrate the life and share fond memories of a loved one in a place that is so meaningful to them.

Which is why we are pleased to announce special Memorial Service benefits for those who have been ANS members for 10 or more years

and/or are members of our Legacy Society. Benefits apply on services for an ANS member or the immediate family of a current ANS member.

We are grateful to our longtime members for their dedication to ANS and to members of the Legacy Society who have remembered ANS in their wills.

If you would like more information on booking a memorial service, please contact our Rentals Manager Beatriz Engel at Beatriz.Engel@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x38.

For information about how to join the Legacy Society, please contact Jacky Wershbale at jacky.wershbale@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x31.



#### WOODEND NATURE SANCTUARY



"Thank you for your help while organizing my father's memorial. It went really well, and I couldn't have imagined a better spot to hold it." J. F., Washington, D.C.





## Celebrate the life of your loved one at historic Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

When you need a place to remember and share fond memories of your loved one with family and friends, consider historic Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion.

Nestled on a 40-acre nature sanctuary, Woodend is conveniently located in Chevy Chase, MD, and offers a private setting with planning support, on-site parking, and excellent catering options, so you can focus on what matters most to you in moments like this. Mansion photo - Mary Kate McKenna Photography Mantle photo - Stephen Gosling Photography



#### REMEMBRANCES

With fondness and a heavy heart, Audubon Naturalist Society announces the passing of several longtime supporters and friends.

Dr. Jane Huff, teacher, educator and long-time ANS member who helped start the Natural History Field Studies Program and taught NHFS classes for many years, passed away in November. Jane was also a member of the ANS staff for several years. Dr. Stanwyn Shetler, former ANS President and botanist emeritus of the National Museum of Natural History, passed away in December. Stan, a recipient of ANS's Paul Bartsch Award in 1995, held many leadership roles in ANS including several terms on the ANS Board and as an active member of the Rust Sanctuary Advisory Committee. Jane Engle, a gifted nature photographer and poet, and dedicated ANS member also passed away in December. Jane was a volunteer Master Naturalist with ANS and steadfast activist with the Save Ten Mile Creek Campaign.

#### MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS November 2017 - January 2018

In memory of Dorothy Brawner Nancy Grissom

In memory of Francisco Calvo Debra Street

In memory of Holly Wilson Camhi Haff Family

In memory of James Carpenter Burt Wealth Advisors; Craig Close; Jean Hayes; Shanti, David & Khanna Johnston; Amy Lerman

### In memory of Nita Crosby Choukas

Melanie Choukas-Bradley

In memory of Ellen Dashner Rita Svec

In memory of Mary V. Davies Linda Dawkins

In memory of Allen & Laura Dittmann Sherry Dittmann

In memory of Josiah Epps Betty Brody

#### In memory of Jane Ann Engle

Elizabeth Barbehenn; Susan Berman; Sara Case; Heidi Coleman; Ann Ford; Evamaria Hawkins; James Holmes & Timothy Sabin; Louise Lees; David Lloyd; Stephanie Mason; Mary Massey, Marilyn Meek; Charlotte Melichar; Sandra Miller; Alice Nicolson; Lorraine Rogers; Susan Schober; Moira Wait; Angela Gover Walker; Susan Whiteman; Tenley Wurglitz; Alan Zimmerman

#### In memory of Phyllis Evans

Richard Evans

#### In memory of Susanna Feder

Scott & Terry Miller; Myra Nelson; Ed & Gloria Plumlee

#### In memory of David Gray

Judith Furash; Gayle Miller; Raylynn Oliver; Karen Robison; Elizabeth Tebow

#### In memory of Jane Highsaw Jacki Farhood; Stephanie Mason; Dan & Sybil Silver

In memory of Jane Huff Dottie Beck; Mark England; Charlotte Fremaux; Barbara Nash

In memory of Alex Maasry Ryan Davies

In memory of Murray N. Shelton Alison Shelton

#### In memory of Stan Shetler

Bob & Phyllis Anderson; Dottie Beck; Melanie Choukas-Bradley; Mark England; Neal Fitzpatrick; Ruth Kaufman; Alice Nicolson; Joy Viertel; Elizabeth Wells

#### In memory of Harriet "Heidi" Shinn

Susan Metsala

#### In memory of Jean Steinberg

Edmond FitzGibbon; Randy & Lenora Jennings; Erik Johnson; Pearl Meulemans; Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Miles; Joe & Barbara Miller; Christian Quaia; Boris Sheliga; Mitchell Smith

In memory of Helen Styles

Eleanor Hillegeist

In memory of Albery Zevin Francie Woltz

In honor of Desmond Bozzo Bruna Genovese

In honor of Toby Clark Anne Litchfield

In honor of Lynda DeWitt Edward Kellv

In honor of Julie Elfin David Elfin

In honor of Neal Fitzpatrick Jan McCarthy

In honor of Ed Hickey Jeremy, Liz, Charlie, Reese, Henry & Winnie

In honor of Jan Holderness Louise Beale; Sarah Demarest

In honor of Nora Kelly Merle Fossen; Lorraine Snell

In honor of Louise Lees Alison & David Waxman

In honor of Peggy & Don MacGlashan Anne MacGlashan

In honor of Pearl Marks Carol Anderson; Jenny & Thomas Blair; David Mecklenburg

In honor of Joe Marx Barbara Nash

#### In honor of Master Naturalist Teachers

Angela Gildner

#### In honor of Beth Spencer

Will & Camilla Spencer

#### In honor of Phil Teigen

**Robert Timmons** 

#### In honor of Adria Zeldin & Peter Gray

Gidon van Emden

#### **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 weatherrelated concern or another issue outside of ANS's control forces a cancellation, you will receive a full credit to your account.
- Nature travel programs have different cancellation policies, explained on the information sheet sent on request.

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

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

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8940 Jones Mill Road Chevy Chase, MD 20815 Non-profit org. AUTO U.S. postage PAID Suburban, MD Permit No. 3385

# Master Naturalist Training at Woodend Sanctuary!

This fall, ANS will partner with the University of Maryland Extension to offer our eight 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 17–November 12, 2018, 10 am – 3 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 starting May 15 at ANShome. org/master-naturalist. Questions? Email mitch.greene@anshome.org.

Proudly printed on 30% post-consumer waste paper. Please recycle this paper.







Thank you to Taking Nature Black Conference Sponsors U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alliance for the Bay, and Prince Georges County Parks.

We are so grateful for your support and were thrilled to have you with us!