

NATURE FORWARD

Naturalist Quarterly

Winter 2023

NATUREFORWARD.ORG



We are now Nature Forward!

NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

Nature Forward 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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11 AM-3 PM

GROUNDHOURS

Dawn to dusk

NATURE FORWARD MEMBERSHIP

Senior/Young Professional \$15
Individual \$50
Family \$65
Nature Steward \$100
Advocate \$200
Sanctuary Guardian \$500
Naturalists Council \$1,000
Preservationist \$1,000+

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COVER Property Manager Bjorn Busk hangs a new sign at Woodend Sanctuary. Photo by Ben Israel.

From the Director

Make New Friends but Keep the Old

Greetings Nature Forward Members,

As we embark together on the exciting journey of rolling out our new name, Nature Forward, I am reminded about a song we used to sing when I was a Girl Scout.

Make new friends, but keep the old One is sliver and the other's gold

Now that I've turned 61, I place myself firmly in the silver category along with many of our longest-standing members. We are proud of our organization's storied history and equally proud of how we have evolved and changed to meet the future head on. I am excited about our members' enthusiasm for Nature Forward, and the ways our new name will help us attract more people into our community of nature lovers and advocates.

Throughout the two-year process of finding our new name, we heard loud and clear that **nature** is the word that unites us, no matter how we choose to enjoy the great outdoors (see article on pg. 4). Nature Forward fits for people who enjoy nature by walking in a city park. Nature Forward fits for folks who want to do a deep dive into the science of fungi, the intricacies of ornithology, or the study of macrobenthic invertebrates.

Nature Forward works for young people who will be attracted to our exciting redbud leaf logo that looks so sharp on smartphones and hats. Nature Forward welcomes nature novices who might never have dared to join an organization with our former, nine-word, 19-syllable name. Nature Forward will be a rallying cry for activists around the region who join us in the fight to mitigate climate change and protect clean air, clean water, and our green spaces.

And of course, our mission and vision remain the same. Under the banner of Nature Forward, we will continue to do all the great work for people and wildlife that inspired you to become a member in the first place. We've begun the process of rolling out Nature Forward on our website, in our emails, and with this issue of the Naturalist Quarterly. And it will take all of us, working together, to ensure that Nature Forward is well-known and widely adopted brand throughout the region. Please reach out to me if you spot a place where we need to update the name.

I encourage you to stop by the Woodend Nature Shop to pick up your Nature Forward tote bag, magnet, pin and bookmark, free for all members. Please wear your Nature Forward gear with pride and spread the word about the important, impactful mission work for nature that we have done and always will do right here in our own Capital Region. Nature needs all of us, working together, to protect our precious environment. With our new name, I am confident that we can realize our vision of creating a larger more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it!

And when that Nature Forward membership renewal or year-end fundraising request arrives in your email or your home mailbox, I encourage you to give generously to support our mission work in nature education, conservation, and restoration. Thank you, dear members. You are the beating heart of this wonderful organization. As Nature Forward, we will make new friends, keep the old, embrace the future boldly, and preserve nature for future generations!

With best wishes for a peaceful holiday season and happy times spent in nature,



3

Praise for jaguar's claw

"A ripping good adventure tale." - Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior 1993-2001

"A vivid tour de force" - J.A. Mills
Author of Blood of the Tiger

"Indiana Jones meets Greta Thunberg" - Stacy Rhodes
U.S. Department of State

"Read this one slowly - for the pleasure of savoring each page."
- Robert J. Mrazek, Award Winning Author of the Jake Cantrell

Don't miss this explosive sequel to Brooks Yeager's
prize-winning Chilly Winds

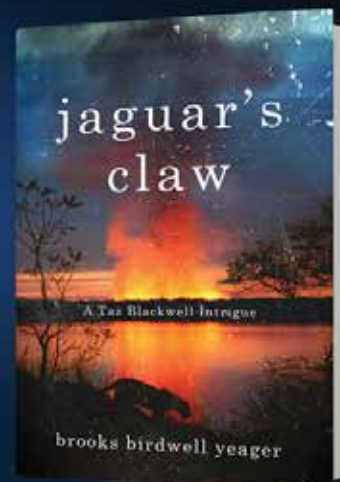
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& NOBLE

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What's new? What's next? Nature Forward!



We are the first Audubon membership organization to change its name! For years, our community has been thinking more expansively about our mission, vision, and role in protecting nature in the Capital Region. We spent two years, hosted two Task Forces, hired a professional branding firm (thanks to a generous gift!) and talked to more than 1,000 people in our region to find just the right name to help us live up to our vision of ***creating a larger, more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.***

We are now, loudly and proudly, Nature Forward! And the response to our name change has been resoundingly positive. Immediately after our members voted to change the name at the Annual Meeting, our story gained media attention, including an exclusive in Washingtonian Magazine, a radio piece on WAMU, and an article in DCist. And just five days after changing our name, Nature Forward received an official Montgomery County Proclamation honoring Nature Forward's 125 years of environmental leadership in our community. How wonderful to have the Montgomery County Council recognize our remarkable history under the banner of our new name!

And our most loyal members are embracing the name with a sense of commitment and a dash of humor. Don Messersmith, our longest serving instructor, Bartsch Award winner, and member since 1964, pledges to practice using Nature Forward and hopes to be forgiven for





The Montgomery County Council celebrated Nature Forward's 125th anniversary with a special proclamation presented on October 25th. Pictured left to right: Council President Gabe Albornoz, Nature Forward Executive Director Lisa Alexander, Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Nature Forward MD Conservation Advocate Denisse Guitarra, Nature Forward Audience Engagement Manager Lisa Goodnight, and Councilmember Sidney Katz.

the occasional slip up. Like Don, all of us have the chance to be Nature Forward ambassadors, by displaying our car magnets, wearing our redbud logo hat, carrying a Nature Forward tote bag, or just talking to your friends and neighbors about why they should join Nature Forward and become part of our growing and diverse community of nature lovers protecting the environment right here in our region.

The response from our professional networks has been overwhelmingly favorable. Wendy O'Sullivan, Superintendent of the National Park Service's Chesapeake Office, wrote, "Great to see the new name align with your existing and ever growing inclusive and impactful mission!" Chris Williams, Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Society, responded to the new name this way, "The new name of your organization is an inspired choice. Nature Forward is evocative, energetic, clear in its focus, with an inviting, can do spirit. We look forward to continuing to work with old friends at the 'new' Nature Forward!"



Photos by Ben Israel

2023 - 2027 Strategic Plan

by Amy Ritsko-Warren, Deputy Director for Administration and Chair of Strategic Plan Task Force

The end of 2022 marks the completion of the Audubon Naturalist Society's 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan. The plan guided our organization through a time of global pandemic, social reckoning, and a name change. What a feat!

As we worked to develop a plan for the next five years, we looked to expand on our previous plan by:

- (1) integrating our inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) values in every goal;
- (2) adding a pillar focused on sustaining the organization's human, financial, and physical resources, and
- (3) reorganizing the pillars of the plan around aspirational goals that span across departments.

Nature Forward will carry our history and values into the future through these ambitious goals for the next five years:



Enjoy

Cultivate a range of transformative experiences that reflect our diverse communities and lead to discovery, engagement, and lasting emotional bonds with nature.

- Inspire people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to connect with nature through experiences and resources that celebrate the varied ways people experience joy in nature.
- Design and manage welcoming and safe spaces and programs for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, with the intent of breaking down barriers to accessing and appreciating nature.



Learn

Exchange knowledge equitably with communities of learners of all ages and backgrounds about how nature works, its components, and the complex, intertwined relationship between people and nature.

- Deliver a wide variety of inclusive programming that leads to the regional advancement of environmental awareness, understanding, and literacy.
- Leverage Nature Forward's expertise and resources to support environmental ambassadors and trainers within local communities and other partners.
- Respond continuously to the desires and needs of our diverse communities by listening, learning, and growing as an organization.

Protect

Act as a steward and catalyst to protect, conserve, and restore the regional communities' natural environments for a more resilient future.

- Employ, demonstrate, and promote best practices in management of natural habitats, cultivated landscapes, and historic structures.
- Advocate for sustainable and equitable policies and practices that protect people, wildlife, and natural environments in the DC region as we prepare for and adapt to climate change.
- Use effective storytelling and data to shape policy conversations around issues of environmental concern in the region.



STRATEGIC PLAN

2023-2027

"We need nature,
and nature needs
all of us."



Lead

Evolve Nature Forward's role as a recognized convener and collaborator in the region, modeling the successful transformation of an historic environmental organization moving into the future.

- Engage and collaborate with diverse communities to advance and expand the work of the organization by actively listening and uplifting voices that are traditionally underrepresented in the environmental space.
- Build, sustain, and support coalitions, partnerships, and grassroots networks to propel the environmental movement forward across the region.
- Take action to support the transformation and recognition of the organization as a multicultural, antiracist organization that serves and reflects the diverse communities of our region.

Sustain

Sustain and strengthen core support functions that allow Nature Forward to be viable and resilient, and to successfully carry out its mission into the future.

- Attract and sustain diverse funding sources and relationships to bolster and grow the organizational mission and reach.
- Nurture a culture of interdependence and organization-wide coordination that supports the full range of skills, experiences, and competencies necessary to accomplish these strategic goals, including human, office, financial, and communications resources.

We're counting on your year-end gift today!



Your Support Helps These Five Key Areas:

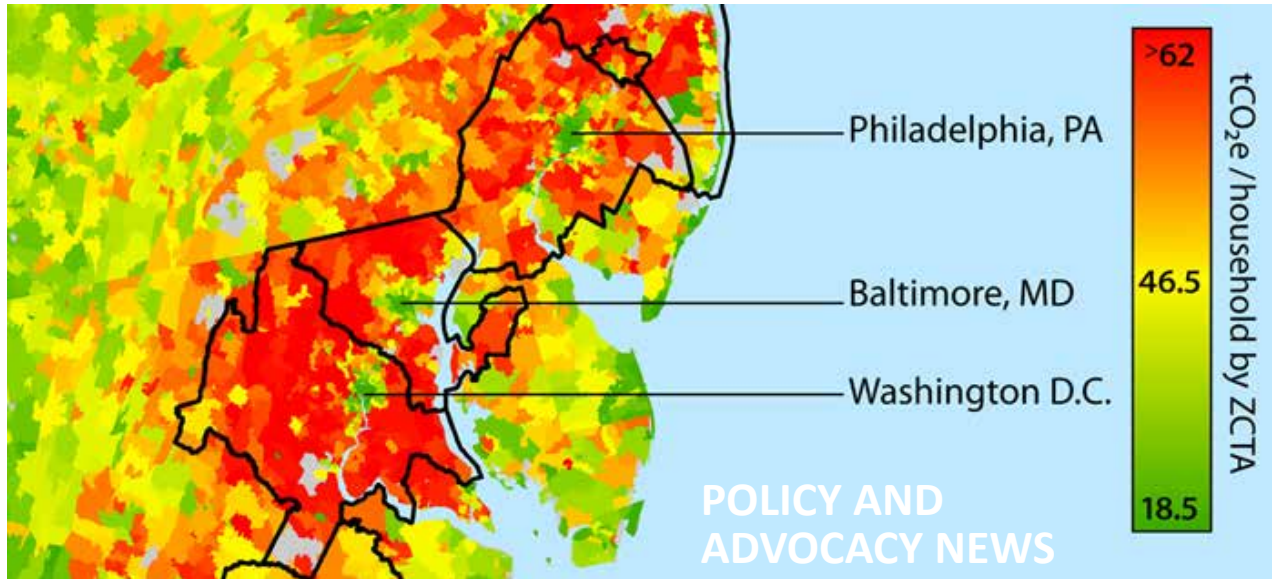
- ENJOY - Help increase access to nature.
- LEARN - Expand opportunities to learn about nature.
- PROTECT - Enlist advocates to speak up for nature.
- LEAD - Inspire the next generation of nature champions.
- SUSTAIN - Help fund programs to restore nature.



**Please make Your Tax-Deductible
Year-End Gift Today!**

Visit natureforward.org/yearend

Conservation



Red areas on this map show high carbon dioxide emissions associated with sprawl development in our region.

SPRAWL IS BAD FOR THE CLIMATE: Nature Forward supported Montgomery County's new Thrive 2050 (while pressing for needed improvements) because of the regionwide benefits of fighting sprawl with development that keeps housing and business growth centered near transit and away from the forests and farms of the Agricultural Reserve and further-out counties. The map above, produced in 2013 by researchers at UC Berkeley, shows the household carbon footprint by Zip Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA). For our metropolitan region, the urban core, including close-in suburbs and small outlying cities, have low household carbon emissions shown in green on the map. But most of the suburbs and exurbs have much higher emissions. The study found that, "Dominated by emissions from cars, trucks and other forms of transportation, suburbs account for about 50 percent of all household emissions – largely carbon dioxide – in the United States." While we must be careful to protect natural areas and manage stormwater in all communities to accelerate our fight against climate change, we must reimagine our transportation and development patterns. Nature Forward will fight for policies that keep development where it belongs – close to transit. Read more about Nature Forward's position on Thrive 2050 at <https://tinyurl.com/Thrive2050>. Image and Research Source: UC Berkeley CoolClimate Network, Average Annual Household Carbon Footprint (2013).

Washington, DC

Migratory Wildlife Protection Act of 2022: On October 21st, Nature Forward testified at the Public Hearing on the Migratory Wildlife Protection Act, also known as Bird Safe Buildings Act, which calls for most new or substantially remodeled buildings in DC to incorporate these bird-friendly measures. Thank you to the action takers that have submitted over 70 letters to the council in support of this bill! Read Nature Forward's testimony on the bill at <https://tinyurl.com/BirdSafeBlog>.

Maryland

Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law: The current Montgomery County Council has delayed review of Forest Conservation Bill 25-22 to the next Council. We will continue to push for the strongest forest protections with the next Council along with all allies, partners, and community members. We will keep you updated on the new ways you can take action. Read about our work on strengthening the County's Forest Conservation Law at: <https://tinyurl.com/MoCoForestBlog>.

Virginia

Prince William County passes the largest land-use change in decades: The PW Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment has been highly controversial but now it has been approved by the Board of County Supervisors. At the end of a 14-hour public hearing, the Board passed the plan which will open over 2,100 acres of the Rural Crescent to data centers, putting the Occoquan Reservoir, a primary source of drinking water for Northern Virginia, at risk. Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/PWDataCentersBlog>.

Volunteer with ANS Conservation on Advocacy & Policy!

Our Conservation Advocacy volunteer corps meets bimonthly for training, idea sharing, and new assignments. Join our next meeting to discuss current policy priorities, successes, challenges and ways to get involved in DC, Maryland and Virginia. We look forward to seeing you on **Wednesday, December 14 at 2 pm at Woodend Nature Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD**. Wear your favorite holiday/cozy sweater and join us as we prepare for winter advocacy over hot cocoa and refreshments in December. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/DecVolMtg> NOW!

Email jamoni.overby@natureforward.org for more info.

Read about and celebrate the work our volunteers have done across the region this year on our blog at <https://tinyurl.com/ConservationVols22>.



Advocacy Workshops

Register at natureforward.org/conservation/training. Members \$20; nonmembers \$30. Complimentary registration available, contact eliza.cava@natureforward.org. Free for Advocacy & Policy volunteers. Instructor: Eliza Cava (via Zoom)

Environmental & Conservation Advocacy 101

Wednesday, January 18, 1-3:30 pm

What's your environmental issue? Our highly engaging, interactive workshop will cover the following key advocacy skills: starting with and communicating your WHY, connecting environmental solutions with human needs, and introducing campaigning skills that allow everyone to bring their strengths to the table.

Advocacy 201: Make Your Voice Heard!

Tuesday, February 28, 3-5 pm

Communicate, communicate, communicate! This skills-based workshop will set advocates up for success when talking with decision makers, writing comment letters, and delivering testimony/public speaking. The workshop includes time to practice each activity and hear from Nature Forward staff and fellow advocates about successes and lessons learned.

(Virtual) Conservation Café

Join us for inspiring **virtual** conversations on nature conservation topics. Your \$10-15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! Complimentary registrations available, contact eliza.cava@natureforward.org. See detailed descriptions and register at natureforward.org/conservation-cafe.

January Conservation Café: Eroding History: How We Talk About Environmental Justice

Thursday, January 19 (7-8:30 pm)

Presenters: Rona Kobell and Donzell Brown, Jr. This talk, by the founders of the Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative, addresses facets of environmental justice.

February Conservation Café: Can You Hear Me Now? Telling YOUR Story of Belonging

Wednesday, February 15 (7-8:30 pm)

Presenter: Caroline Brewer

Join us for what is best described as a master class on powerfully communicating your environmental story.

Connecting Youth to Nature

Nature Preschool



The Nature Preschool is opening enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year this January! Our half-day program accepts children ages 3-5 years old for a year full of nature-based, hands-on educational experiences for early childhood. Building on children's inherent curiosity about the world around them, our teachers incorporate science, math, literacy, and the arts to explore seasonal occurrences and natural history throughout the 40 acres at

Woodened Nature Sanctuary.

Do you have a little one under 3 years-old? Join us for the 2023-2024 Acorns program! This one-hour program is designed for our youngest learners to explore Woodend once a week with their favorite adult for an entire year. Please visit natureforward.org/nature-preschool to review available sessions and enroll in January. Additional inquiries can be sent to Rose Brusaferro at rose.brusaferro@natureforward.org.

Family Walks at Woodend

First Saturday of each month (9-10 am)
Members \$12 per family, nonmembers \$20

Join Nature Forward naturalists and educators on a leisurely walk through the habitats at Woodend. Explore the wonders of trees, meadows, streams, insects, birds, and everything Woodend has to offer! Limited to 10 families. Register at natureforward.org/woodend-tours.

We also have **NATURE BACKPACKS** available! Visit our Nature Shop to check out a backpack (ID required) that will have tools and activities you and your family can use to explore nature at Woodend Sanctuary. Backpacks are free for check-out in the shop but must be returned by 3 pm. Shop hours are currently M, T, Th, F and Sa from 11 am-3 pm.



NATURE-THEMED BIRTHDAY PARTIES



Create lasting memories for your child

and also support nature conservation and education





Explore Woodend Nature Sanctuary with a naturalist and enjoy nature-themed activities and games all outdoors!



For details, visit

natureforward.org/birthday-parties



Connecting Youth to Nature

Enjoy the wonders of Spring at Woodend!

Spring Break Camp

April 3 to April 6, 2023
8:45 am - 3:00 pm

Grades K-5

Catch frogs in the pond,
hike to Rock Creek,
& get your hands dirty
in our Learning Garden!

Cost:

\$370 for Members
\$400 for Non-members

*Extended camp available
until 5:15 pm for \$100*



nature
forward

Register now at
natureforward.org/spring-break-camps

Questions? Contact denis.perez@natureforward.org

Summer Camp 2023

Tell your friends Nature Forward members-only registration will be on **Monday, January 30** at 10 am. You must be a member before that date or join Nature Forward while registering. Catalogs will be mailed in early December.

Visit www.natureforward.org/summer-camps for more info.

We will also be offering extended camp for K camps until 3:45 pm and for Grades 1-6 until 5 pm.

Limited spots available.

Questions? Email pam.oves@natureforward.org.

Unplug and EXPLORE

at Woodend Nature Sanctuary

DID YOU KNOW?

Playing in nature
helps children with

cognitive development

Creativity • Problem Solving

emotional growth

Stress Reduction • Self-Confidence

socialization

Cooperation • Self-Awareness

To find programs and events that
connect your family to nature,
visit natureforward.org
and click **Children & Families** on
our homepage!



Children & Families

Our youth programs include
nature preschool, summer
camp, and much more.

[Learn More](#)



nature
forward

Connecting people and nature
in the Capital Region



Children in Nature: GreenKids

Students Learn About Stream Health with GreenKids

Fifth graders from Ritchie Park Elementary School in Rockville, MD got an eye-opening and hands-on lesson on health streams during a recent GreenKids field trip to their local creek, Bogely Branch. Students discovered how human actions have a direct impact on streams. They also learned about methods used to determine the overall health of a stream.

The students measured and evaluated parameters including temperature, pH, nitrates, oxygen, and salinity. They also looked at bank erosion and the amount of pervious and impervious surfaces nearby. After analyzing their findings, the students were encouraged to brainstorm actions that they can take to improve the health of their creek.

Ritchie Park Elementary is one of five schools that we've supported over the last two years in their pursuit of a Maryland Green School Certification. The Maryland Green Schools Award Program recognizes Maryland schools that include environmental education in the curricula, model best management practices at the school, and address community environmental issues.





Adult Nature Programs

Wild places are closer than you think. ®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

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

Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

H: December 7 – Widewater

I. December 14 – Carderock

Each walk members \$33; nonmembers \$46

We'll wrap up our fall series of walks along portions of the C&O Canal Towpath which see less foot and bicycle traffic during the week than on weekends. Our focus will be the general—and exceedingly rich—natural history of the varied habitats along the Potomac River and the historic Canal. We'll proceed at a “naturalist's shuffle” pace, stopping often to observe and ID still-active wildlife, plants of the season, and whatever we might find. *A series of similar bi-weekly Winter Walks Along the Canal will start in January.*

Winter Birding at Black Hill

Thursday, December 8 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

The winter months can be an ideal time to learn more about birds and birding, and Black Hill Regional Park, in upper Montgomery County, is an ideal outdoor classroom. This walk, intended for beginning to mid-level birders, will explore several sites in the Park in a search for waterfowl, sparrows, woodpeckers, raptors, and other resident and overwintering species. The Park's habitats are varied, and include wetlands and Little Seneca Lake, as well as forest and field. *We will offer a monthly walk at Black Hill through March so that participants can observe the seasonal changes in bird numbers, diversity, and behavior. Park trails may be natural surface with muddy and uneven stretches, and they may include uphill and downhill.*

COVID Policy for Outdoor Adult Programs

Continuing this winter, both leaders and participants are asked to observe social distancing throughout our outdoor field trips. We request that any participant or leader who has not been vaccinated for Covid-19 wear a mask. Of course, participants are always welcome to wear a mask if they are more comfortable doing so. If you test positive for COVID, you may participate in ANS activities after you have a negative antigen/home test no sooner than 5 days after the first positive test. Twelve will be our usual group size maximum, unless an outing's focus and/or field conditions call for a smaller group. All of the policies above are subject to change.

December Along The Water

Sunday, December 11 (10 am-3 pm)

Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

Leader: Stephanie Mason

With daylight hours in decline and frosty overnights on the rise, we invite you to experience the changing seasons on a broad-based nature walk at the Jug Bay Natural Area in Prince George's County. Situated on the western shore of the Patuxent River, this vast park protects old field, bottomland and upland forest, and freshwater tidal habitats. We'll hike up to 4 miles, on a mixture of natural surface and paved trails, as we enjoy the last hurrah of fall and the early signs of (inevitable!) winter. Trails may be muddy. *Expect some mild uphill and downhill and a pace that is faster than our usual Naturalists' Shuffle.*

Early Winter Waterfowl Prowl

Friday, December 16 (8:30-11 am)

Leaders: Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni

Members \$33; nonmembers \$46

December is a good time to begin learning how to ID overwintering waterfowl in our area. Typically, local waters are not yet frozen and outdoor temperatures are still comfortable for the birders! We'll base our field trip at Gunner's Lake in Germantown, MD, where a trail around the water allows for waterfowl watching with binoculars. Of course, our leaders will be carrying a scope and anyone is welcome to bring along their own as well. While our focus will be waterfowl, we'll keep an eye open for all manner of birdlife in the habitats around the Lake's perimeter.



Solstice Celebration

Wednesday, December 21 (Noon-5 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$35; nonmembers \$49

The first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere is arriving. Whether you call this astronomical event the shortest day of the year—or the longest night of the year—it's a good occasion to push away from your computer and join fellow nature lovers on a hike in a beautiful place. Our outing starts at the Widewater area along the C&O Canal Towpath and will move upriver to Great Falls. Here we'll traverse the bridges out to the Great Falls Overlook—and after enjoying the drama and din of the Falls, we'll retrace our steps back to Widewater. As daylight fades on our walk back downriver, we'll look and listen for wildlife activity—mostly birds—as they settle in for the longest night of the year. *Expect a round trip of nearly 4 miles on the natural surface Towpath at a pace faster than our usual Naturalists' Shuffle.*

Experience Nature with Nature Forward

From Adult Field Trips to Classes to Nature Travel,
find a wide variety of opportunities to learn about and
experience nature led by regional naturalists.

visit natureforward.org/adult-programs



nature forward

Connecting people and nature in the Capital Region

Thanks for Joining Us!

2022 ANS Annual Meeting Re-Cap: Members Adopt Nature Forward as New Name

The night was chilly but the atmosphere at our 2022 Annual Meeting was filled with warmth. On October 20th, our members resoundingly approved adopting Nature Forward as the new name for our organization. Enthusiasm was high for the action-oriented, and future-focused name.

“It was clear that one word that unites everyone in the ANS community. That word is nature,” Executive Director Lisa Alexander explained about the renaming process. She suggested that members think of our new name as a calling card that welcomes all people to join in our mission work for nature. Lisa also reminded everyone that our mission and vision remain the same. All the things our members love and support about our work for people and nature will continue and flourish under the banner of Nature Forward.



Watch the video introducing our new name at bit.ly/3FLEsm6 or you can use this QR code:



President's Address

Board President Diane Wood told members that we have much to be proud of, especially our mission work that enables new audiences to connect with nature in ways they could not previously. “This is an organization that dreams big, works hard, and delivers on its promise to create a community of people who appreciate, understand, and protect nature,” Diane said.

President Wood introduced a resolution to officially change the name Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Inc. to Nature Forward, Inc. She explained that the word “Corporation” is included because the organization is, and has always been, a registered non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia. She noted that Nature Forward will not use “Corporation” or “Inc.” in public communications, but only when it is legally necessary. She then read the Resolution:

Resolved that Article 1 of the Corporation’s Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, dated November 19, 2015, shall be amended to read as follows:

- Name. The name of the corporation is “Nature Forward, Inc.”
- Resolved that the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Nature Forward Inc., in the form furnished to the members with the notice of this 2022 annual meeting of members, is hereby ratified and adopted.

A motion was made and seconded and the resolution was overwhelmingly approved.

Treasurer's Report

Hughey Newsome, Treasurer, recalled that ANS began its Fiscal Year 2022 with uncertainty about the continuing impacts of Covid-19 on programming. Despite that uncertainty, he was pleased to report that we had a strong year including a roaring success with summer camp this year, with registrations and revenue returning to pre-pandemic levels. Hughey reported that our bottom line was bolstered by a surge in rental events as people caught up on weddings that had been postponed from 2020 and 2021.

Additionally, staff continues to win grants to support our mission work. We raised more than \$1.4 million in grants and restricted contributions for Conservation, Education, and Restoration this year. Hughey noted that we raised an additional \$870,000 in unrestricted contributions and expressed thanks because “so many of those unrestricted gifts came from you, our generous members.” Treasurer Newsome went on to report that the organization is a good steward of the money we raise. We spend an amazing 87% of every dollar on mission work. We closed Fiscal Year 2022 on August 31 with an estimated net operating gain of \$414,000.

Returning and New Board Members

Board member **Carolyn Peirce** introduced the people standing for re-election and election to the Board of Directors. Members unanimously re-elected **Jim Burris**, **Hughey Newsome**, **Abel Olivo**, and **Diane Wood** to serve their second, three-year terms. Members also unanimously elected four new Board members. **Sarah Davidson** is the Director for Water Policy at World Wildlife Fund. She and her family enjoy summer camps, birding classes, and strolls through Woodend Sanctuary. **Josefina Doumbia**, a Colombian national, recently retired after a 25-year career with the World Bank. She has been a member of the Planning Committee for the last two Naturally Latino conferences. **Rebecca Long** serves as the Senior Manager of Digital Strategy for American Forests. Rebecca lives in Washington, DC and holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Geology from the University of Mary Washington. **Bill McGrath** has been working with adults and children with disabilities for over 20 years. Over a decade ago, Bill first connected to our GreenKids program in a classroom serving students with intellectual disabilities.



Pictured from left to right: Jim Burris, Bill McGrath, Josefina Doumbia, Rebecca Long, Hughey Newsome, Sarah Davidson, and Carolyn Peirce. Photo by Ben Israel.

Special Recognitions

Congratulations and thank you to our Volunteer of the Year **Jody Kline**. Read more about Mr. Kline on page 31.

Board President **Diane Wood** thanked outgoing Board members, each of whom served six years on the Board of Directors. **Nancy Pielemeier** was praised for her service as Board President during the height of the pandemic. Nancy's calm, compassionate, and thoughtful leadership helped our organization survive and thrive during extremely challenging times.



Adult Education Director Serenella Linares (center) introduced our newest NHFS graduates Mark Vedder and Kim Fietze, who were presented with a Certificate of Achievement for completing the program. Congratulations Mark and Kim! Photo by Ben Israel.

Carolyn Peirce was lauded for being an outstanding Chair of the Governance Committee and for her deep commitment to recruiting a diverse Board of Directors for the organization.

Larry Wiseman was commended for helping negotiate strong forest conservation easements on both our Woodend and Rust Nature Sanctuary properties. He is appreciated for being an early name change proponent, his thoughtful questions, and his wry sense of humor.

Read our **2022 Annual Report** at natureforward.org/annual-reports to review our amazing mission accomplishments over the past year.

Master Falconer Rodney Stotts

"If anyone had told me twenty-five years ago that, at age forty-six, I would be a master falconer, caring for and training my own birds of prey, I would have laughed. Not so much about the falconry part -- I've always loved animals -- but mostly because I never expected to live that long, not with the life I was living."

--Rodney Stotts "Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife"

Nature Forward members warmly welcomed Master Falconer Rodney Stott, who, along with Agnes, his beloved Harris Hawk, captivated attendees of our October 20th Annual Meeting with his incredible story, his frank honesty, his vast bird knowledge, and his engaging sense of humor. During his keynote presentation, Rodney shared his unlikely journey to becoming a conservationist and one of America's few Black master falconers.

After growing up in Southeast Washington, DC among guns, drugs, and violence, Rodney ultimately took a different path. Realizing his lifestyle was not safe or sustainable, he was drawn to nature conservation as an alternative to jail, or perhaps more likely, death.

"I found that my love for the environment and raptors was greater than the love for drug dealing," Rodney explained.

It started with a job with the Earth Conservation Corps pulling trash from the Anacostia River and eventually became something much bigger. Rodney became part of a small group that helped reintroduce bald eagles to the region. He eventually began teaching Earth Conservation Corps members about the Anacostia River and the ethics of environmental stewardship.

In 2009, Wings Over America, a residential program for young men who committed serious offenses, introduced Rodney to falconry. The program helped him develop the tools and skills to change his life through environmental advocacy.

Rodney is the founder and director of Rodney's Raptors, which includes a raptor education program and a sanctuary in Charlotte Court House, Virginia.

His funny and moving address included an unflinching look at the uphill battle Black children face in pursuing stable, fulfilling lives, a testament to the healing power of nature, and a reminder that no matter how much heartbreak we've endured, we still have the capacity to give back to our communities and achieve our wildest dreams.

Rodney is also an author. His book, *"Bird Brother: A Falconer's Journey and the Healing Power of Wildlife,"* details his remarkable and inspirational journey. Following his keynote presentation, he signed copies for Nature Forward members. You can purchase *"Bird Brother"* in the Woodend Nature Shop.



Photo by Ben Israel



Taking Nature Black 2023



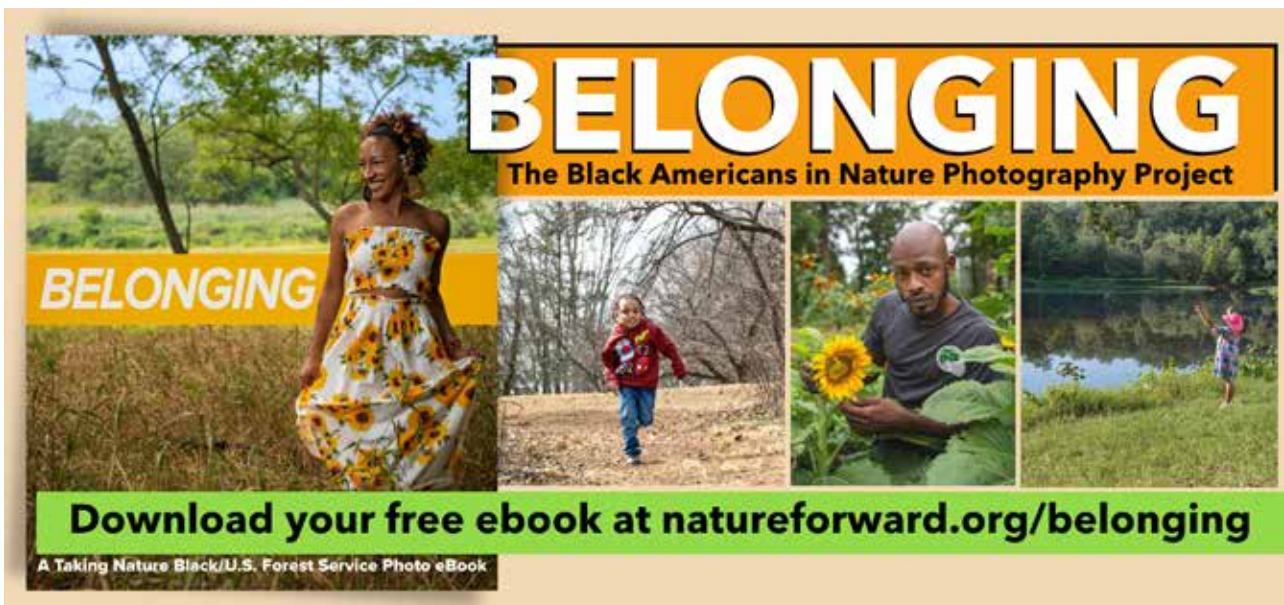
The 5th Taking Nature Black Conference opens
Wednesday, March 8 through Saturday, March 11, 2023



Themed “Belonging: Engaged and Empowered,” this event is bigger-than-ever. We are planning for two virtual conference days March 8-9; one in-person day on Friday, March 10 at the metro-accessible Silver Spring Civic Center, and one day of outdoor nature experiences on Saturday, March 11.

"This will be a unique experience offering dialogue, presentations and performances focused on the interests of Black nature professionals, environmental justice advocates, educators, and outdoor enthusiasts," says Conference Chair Vince Robinson.

Come and be inspired, energized, and connected to a growing community of people bringing about environmental change. For details and updates, visit natureforward.org/taking-nature-black.





Enjoy learning about Natural History topics from the comfort of your own home! Visit www.natureforward.org/naturalist-hour for a complete listing of programs with area naturalists and scientists this winter. The time of the program doesn't work for you? No problem. Register and receive a recording of the talk by the end of the month. **Cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.**

LICHENS! Past, Present and Future

Tuesday, November 29 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Natalie M. Howe, PhD

Lichens are windows to our history. Learn about these fascinating fungal mutualisms that grow on trees, rocks, soils, and plastic all around the world. Lichen Ecology professor, Natalie Howe, will discuss what lichens can teach us about evolution, how we live on our land, and the future of our habitats.

Special Naturalist Hour Walk: Lichens of Patuxent

Saturday, December 3 (10 am-12 pm)

Leader: Natalie M. Howe, PhD

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Winter walks are the perfect time to discover forest lichens. Join Dr. Natalie Howe at Patuxent Research Refuge to discover some of the lichens that live around us, and to learn how they survive and grow on tree bark and forest soils. Hand lenses will be available to see the lichens' miniature world in more intriguing detail. Families with children older than are welcome.



FREE Holiday Winter Tree ID for Beginners

Tuesday, December 13 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Bradley Simpson

Get in the holiday spirit with Nature Forward Restoration Manager, Bradley Simpson, and learn how to identify trees during the winter. Even when their leaves have fallen, hardwood trees still carry clues that tell us who they are. Christmas trees, chestnuts, hollies and other trees that add to the magic of the season will also be highlighted during this talk. REGISTER FREE at: <https://forms.office.com/r/sfYa5WVg2G>

Cold Nights and Clear Skies: The Joys of Winter Astronomy

Thursday, December 15 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Carrie Fitzgerald, PhD

Don't let cold temperatures keep you from star gazing! Winter offers more hours of darkness and better seeing compared to the hazy and humid summer nights. During this presentation, you'll learn what celestial wonders to look for over the next few months. You'll also discover a selection of online astronomical resources you can access while staying snug indoors. Grab some hot cocoa and cozy in for some winter astronomy delights.



Winter Escape to Puerto Rico: An Island Full of Natural Wonders

Tuesday, January 17 (7-8 pm)

Presenter: Serenella Linares

Forget the freezing temperatures and travel virtually with Nature Forward's Adult Education Director, Serenella Linares to the island of Puerto Rico. The island's wide range of environments create unique conditions for nature, from mountain ranges to beaches and mangroves. Learn about the beautiful plants, animals, and fungi that call this paradise home, as well as the places that host such an explosion of diversity. Bring your popcorn, your questions, and enjoy this interactive presentation!



Member and Staff Photos



Nature did it first...make paper that is! Fall is a good time of year to spot these large cone-shaped nests constructed by Bald-faced Hornets. The native insects gather wood and plant fibers which they chew into a papery pulp that is formed into their many-layered nest. The species is beneficial in gardens and landscapes as it eats great numbers of flies and other insects, but the hornets (and their nest) should be observed at a respectful distance as they can sting. The colony's queen will overwinter away from the nest as the rest of the group's members succumb to freezing temperatures. Other animals such as Chickadees will sometimes dig into the soft papery nest and carve out a winter shelter for themselves. Photo by ANS staffer Pam Oves, who snapped this picture on the C&O Canal. Below, birding enthusiasts traveled to Waggoner's Gap in Pennsylvania to observe fall hawk migration. Photo by trip leader Laura McGranaghan.



Thanks to Nature Forward member Barbara Gordon for this picture of a Barred Owl taken on one of our field trips at Violettes Lock. For upcoming nature classes and field trips, turn to page 16.



Cyclists dismount to view the gorgeous fall foliage at Blockhouse Point on the "Fall on Wheels Along the Canal" program in October. Photo by member Stephen Williams.

Natural History Field Studies



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

Classes are currently being offered via online Zoom sessions with in-person field trips. For a complete list of the classes in the NHFS program, plus instructor bios, visit natureforward.org/nhfs.

Winter Bird Life

NATH7163E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: January 11-February 8

Class Location: Lectures online via Zoom

Field trip dates: Saturday, January 21 (8 am-3 pm)

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge; Saturday, February 4 (9 am-12 pm) C&O Towpath

Members \$260, nonmembers \$310

Instructor: Gemma Radko

Woodland birds are easier to see in the winter, when leaves are off deciduous trees. Waterfowl are also numerous and easy to locate. We'll learn about the strategies birds use to survive cold weather, how to attract overwintering birds to your yard, where to look for winter birds, and the essential connection between waterfowl and the Chesapeake Bay. Registration closes January 6.

Find details on Spring NHFS classes, which start in March, at natureforward.org/nhfs in December

Spring Wildflowers: ID & Ecology

Mondays, 6-8 pm, 3 CEUs

Instructor: Clare Walker

Introduction to Botany

Tuesdays, 6-8 pm, 3 CEUs

Instructor: Bradley Simpson

Introduction to Ornithology

Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, 3 CEUs

Instructor: Gemma Radko

Biology for Naturalists

Thursdays, 6-8 pm, 3 CEUs

Instructor: Serenella Linares

Winter Woody Plant ID

NATH7146E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: January 12-February 9

Class Location: Lectures online via Zoom

Field trip dates: Saturday, January 21 (10 am- 1 pm)

Patuxent River Park - Jug Bay Natural Area; Saturday, January 28 (10 am-1 pm) Woodend Nature Sanctuary;

Saturday, February 4 (10 am-1 pm) Sugarloaf Mountain

Members \$290, nonmembers \$340

Instructor: Bradley Simpson

During this winter course, students will learn how to identify trees and other woody plants in winter when there are no leaves to rely on. We will learn how to use twigs, buds, bark, and fruit to identify species throughout winter. During our field trips, students will begin to understand the diversity of features, especially bark, that trees possess. By the end of the course, students will have an arsenal of tools to use when identifying trees in the cold months of winter. Registration closes January 6.



Find required reading lists and instructor bios at www.natureforward.org/nhfs.

U.S. Conservation History

NATH8252E, 3 CEUs

Class day and time: Fridays, 12-2 pm

Class meetings: January 13-March 17

Class Location: Lectures online via Zoom

Field trip dates: January 22, Prince William Forest Park;

February 12, Urban Parks of DC; March 5, Indigenous

Conservation

Members \$350, nonmembers \$400

Instructor: Eliza Cava

This course examines the development of natural resources conservation and preservation thought and policy in the United States from the pre-colonial era through the early twenty-first century. The class considers how land and natural resources have been fundamental agents in shaping the lives of the country's inhabitants and, in parallel, how Americans' perceptions of the environment and its resources have shaped the natural world. Some of the topics studied include varying cultural views of nature and wilderness; U.S. land dispersal policies; the creation of National Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Refuges; principal conservation policies from 1900-1964; the environmental and ecology movements from 1960-2000s; and the intersection of conservation with the climate and environmental justice movements of the 1990s-2020s. Students will learn about famous conservation "heroes" as both professionals and people, whose complicated, and often racist, views shaped patterns and divisions in the early conservation movements that continue to echo today. Students will explore the historical origins and development of a conservation topic of great interest to them with a written paper and class presentation. Field trips will visit sites of local conservation initiatives from different eras. Registration closes January 6.

Maryland Lichens

NATH8204E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: February 16-March 16

Class Location: Online lectures via Zoom

Field trip dates: Saturday, February 18 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Woodend Nature Sanctuary; Saturday, March 11 (9:30 am - 12:30 pm) Patuxent Research Refuge

Members \$230, nonmembers \$280

Instructor: Natalie M. Howe

In this class, participants will learn about lichens, fascinating symbiotic species coming from the relationship between fungi and algae. Learn what they are, how they grow, where they do and don't grow, and what makes them the most enthralling organisms in the world. We'll practice lichen identification using local keys. We'll also practice documenting our finds on iNaturalist and collecting herbarium specimens. We'll go on field trips to explore some of the interesting aspects of lichen biology and ecology. Registration closes February 10.



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Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

Registration is handled completely online by Nature Forward, formerly the Audubon Naturalist Society, through our adult program registration system. Register for Natural History Field Studies classes at www.natureforward.org.nhfs.

Questions? Contact pam.oves@natureforward.org.

Refund Policy for NHFS classes: Nature Forward will provide you with a refund (minus a \$25 administration fee) if you cancel your enrollment no later than the day following the first class lecture. After this date, no refunds will be provided. In the event of a course cancellation due to insufficient enrollment or other events beyond our control, we will notify you as soon as possible and provide you with a full refund.

Important Registration Dates: If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled. Please see class descriptions for registration cut-off date.



@gonatureforward

Adults and Nature Photos

Fall Birding at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

As part of our Fall Birding Series, participants were treated to an eventful outing during our October 20 exploration of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Led by Mike Bowen and Anne Cianni, participants observed 37 bird species.

These teaching walks, specially designed for beginning to mid-level birders, visit natural areas within an hour's drive from DC. The diverse habitats—including fields, forests, and wetlands—offer ideal opportunities to identify and observe birds in autumn. Late-season outings typically showcase sparrows, raptors, waterfowl, and other birds, both resident and overwintering in the region. All photos by Ben Israel.





Conservation Outreach Programs

Nature Forward works to reach families in their communities—near where they live, work, and go to school—and connect them to nearby nature through engaging, hands-on activities and trainings. Check out photos of the experiences and projects we are working on with community leaders, partner organizations, and of course, empowered residents.



Photo by Gregg Trilling

Nature Forward was invited to participate in the Langley Park Civic Association's (LFCA) fall community beautification event in MD. We joined LFCA, Defensores de la Cuenca and CHISPA Md in engaging over 50 community members who picked up litter before it was carried from the neighborhood into Northwest Branch by stormwater runoff. (Pictured: part of the group gathers outside the Langley Park Community Center).



Nature Forward was at the 7th Festival del Rio in Prince George's County, MD. Children had fun creating and decorating their own caddisflies cases.



Nature Forward is continuing our partnership with United Community in Fairfax County, VA for our Water Keepers of Little Hunting Creek programming. This fall, we explored nature in the communities of Audubon Estate and Sequoyah with Discovery Hunts led in Spanish. We look forward to hosting two more events before the end of the year and additional events in 2023!

Stream Science

Nature Forward community-science volunteers visited 27 sites in October to check on stream health through aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys and habitat assessments. Special thanks to our dedicated team leaders who coordinate, bring equipment, provide leadership, identify 100 or more macroinvertebrates, and submit data. Many of the team leaders also help monitor at other team leaders' sites. A shout out to Paula Wang, Glenn Welch, Cathy Wiss, Kathy Ferger, and Peter Viechnicki who mentored new team leaders in 2022.

Our volunteers visit stream sites in Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard Counties, and Rock Creek Park, DC. For more information, please visit <https://natureforward.org/water-quality-monitoring/>

We are recruiting more volunteers! Interested? Please email our Volunteer Coordinator at peihan.orestes@natureforward.org.

STREAM SCIENCE CLASSES

Our introductory and advanced WQM classes are available online. For a list of classes and to register, please visit <https://natureforward.org/water-quality-monitoring/>



WQM team leader Peter Viechnicki (center) provides guidance to Gaynor Bourgeois (right) who is training as co-leader for the recently opened Sligo Creek site in Prince George's County. Team member Kristin Zimmer (left) is observing. Not pictured: co-leader Tamra Mendelson. Photo by Gregg Trilling.



WQM team leader Kathy Ferger (center) works on macroinvertebrate identification with team leader in training Landrum Beard (right) and team member Lori Tsang (left). Landrum is the Community Engagement Coordinator for Rock Creek Conservancy. Photo by Gregg Trilling.



Children and Nature Photos

Days Off Camp

A warm and beautiful fall day provided memorable experiences for youngsters at a recent Days Off Camp at Woodend Nature Sanctuary. Exploring our restored pond was a major highlight as children caught tadpoles and at least one frog. In addition to walking the trails and playing lots of camp games, students also learned about owls and other wildlife. It's not too early to register your child for our Spring Break Camp. Visit natureforward.org/children-families for details. Photos by Ben Israel.





Nature Travel



Nature Forward's 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 12-15 people, and many trips fill early. Email pam.oves@natureforward.org for complete itineraries and registration information or visit natureforward.org/nature-travel.

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

WAITLIST
OPEN

February 1-13, 2023

Leaders: Stephanie Mason & Carlos "Charlie" Gomez

This will be our Senior Naturalist's 23rd year as a Nature Forward leader to this small, tropical wonderland with amazing plant and animal diversity. Costa Rica's colorful birds, from the tiny Scintillant Hummingbird to the large, comical Jabiru, will turn any nature enthusiast into a bird lover. Our trip will visit moist Caribbean lowlands, Caribbean slope, the Cano Negro wetlands in the north, and lush cloud forest habitat. Email pam.oves@natureforward.org to be added to the waitlist.

Arctic Canada Expedition: Icebergs, Polar Bears, Whales and More

Late July/Early August 2024

Leader: Mark Garland

Take a once-in-a-lifetime Arctic cruise in Canada. Cross the Arctic Circle and witness stunning glaciers, islands, and fjords. Take a Zodiac Cruise around towering icebergs, look for polar bears, birds and whales, hike the tundra, and experience Inuit culture. Take in all that the Arctic has to offer in this 12 day expedition. If you are interested in receiving more information when available, email pam.oves@natureforward.org

We want to hear from you!

As we start planning trips in 2023 and 2024, we'd love to hear from you about the kind of trips you want to attend with Nature Forward and the destinations you want to see. Please take this survey and let us know your thoughts!

<https://forms.office.com/r/NxCgZi9YyZ>



Experience Nature with Nature Forward

From Adult Field Trips to Classes to Nature Travel, find a wide variety of opportunities to learn about and experience nature led by regional naturalists.

visit natureforward.org/adult-programs



nature forward
Connecting people and nature in the Capital Region

Volunteer Corner



At the Annual Meeting on October 20, we presented the award of Volunteer of the Year to Jody Kline. While you may not see Jody pulling invasive plants or planting native wildflowers at Woodend, the transformation of the sanctuary over the past few years would never have come about without his volunteer work. Jody has dedicated countless hours toward the restoration and improvement of Woodend by serving as our pro-bono attorney, guiding us through the sometimes arduous county permitting and approval processes for our deer fence, stream and trail restoration, and future nature play space. The beautiful and welcoming Woodend you see today has Jody's legal expertise behind it. Because of his decades of land use and zoning experience, he could help us to understand the intricate ecosystem that is our county government. And because he understands the importance of our work, Jody has been our tireless voice in seeking approval for these projects. So when you walk around Woodend, notice the saplings sprouting in the forest thanks to our deer fence, look for the amphibians teeming in the pools of the restored stream, appreciate how our accessible trail invites all people to experience these habitats...and tip your hat to Jody Kline who made it possible.

Thank you, Jody, our Volunteer of the Year!



Alison Pearce, Deputy Director for Programs, presents Jody Kline with the 2022 Volunteer of the Year award at the Annual Meeting. Photo by Ben Israel.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

- Spring Break Camp, April 3-6 (9 am-3 pm)

Volunteers can sign up in slots of 3 hours (9 am-12 pm and 12-3 pm), but full day commitments are preferred.

- ANS Conservation on Advocacy and Policy

Next meeting is Wednesday, December 14 at 2 pm at Woodend. See page 9 for details and to RSVP.

- Invasives Removal

Continuing through winter and into the spring, volunteers can join Restoration Manager Bradley Simpson on Tuesdays from 2-3 pm or Thursdays and Fridays from 10 am-12 pm for invasive removal and other work within Woodend's forests. Also, look out for opportunities to assist in resurveying the forest to continue our efforts to document our restoration progress!

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Peihan Orestes at peihan.orestes@natureforward.org for more information on any of these opportunities.

Welcome New Board Members



Four new people were elected to the Nature Forward Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting on October 20. We are thrilled to welcome Josefina (Jo) Doumbia, Sarah Davidson, Rebecca Long, and Bill McGrath to the leadership team. Read more about them below!

Josefina (Jo) Doumbia

Josefina (Jo) Doumbia is a Colombian national and holds Chemical Engineering and Masters and Doctorate Environmental Engineering degrees. After over 25 years, she recently retired from the World Bank where she focused on environmental, sustainability and climate change aspects. By virtue of having worked in both developed and developing economies in approximately 30 countries, she has a great understanding of the key environmental and social impacts to peoples and environment generated by the chemical, petrochemical, manufacturing, agribusiness, infrastructure, oil and gas, mining, and other sectors. Ms. Doumbia has been part of the planning committee for the last two ANS Naturally Latino conferences and has been active volunteering with several local environmental organizations. She is particularly interested in outreach to Spanish-speaking communities, where she thinks there is a particular need for more information on the natural environment. She is also a certified VA Master Naturalist and an Audubon at-home Ambassador.

Sarah Davidson

Sarah Davidson is the Director for Water Policy at World Wildlife Foundation. Sarah's areas of expertise include global water governance, transboundary water management, gender and freshwater conservation, and integration of water, sanitation, and hygiene with freshwater conservation to improve human and river basin health. Sarah previously spent 8 years with The Nature Conservancy. Prior to TNC, Sarah worked on international development issues including water resources management, gender, and environmental health. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics & Political Science. An Iowa native, Sarah lives in Takoma Park, Maryland with her husband, two children, and their beloved pandemic puppy. Her first introduction to Woodend was as the perfect location for her son's 5th birthday party, and she and her family have continued to enjoy summer camps, birding classes, and strolls through Woodend Sanctuary.

Rebecca Long

The environmental bug bit Rebecca Long early in life while growing up next to a county forest in Alexandria, VA. Years of exploring her backyard creek and spending time outdoors with family and friends led Rebecca to pursue a bachelor's degree in Environmental Geology from the University of Mary Washington. After graduation, her first job as the Chesapeake Conservation Corps volunteer at Potomac Conservancy introduced her to the communications field, and a passion for educating and engaging the public about environmental issues through digital storytelling followed. Since then, Rebecca has served in various digital communications positions at the EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, American Rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. She now serves as the Senior Manager of Digital Strategy for American Forests, leading the organization's digital communications strategy across websites, email, and social media. Rebecca lives in Washington, DC with her husband, Richard Mann, and their two cats.

Bill McGrath

Bill McGrath has been working with adults and children with disabilities for over 20 years as an occupational therapist, home accessibility evaluator, and administrator in a variety of school, medical, and community-based services organizations. Currently, he leads a department of over 150 staff in Montgomery County Public Schools providing assistive technology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and inclusion services for over 3,000 students with disabilities. Much of his childhood experience with nature was through the lens of his father, who used a powered wheelchair. Bill was first exposed to Nature Forward through the GreenKids programming in a classroom serving students with intellectual disabilities over a decade ago. He has enjoyed serving as a liaison between ANS and a variety of disability specialists in the school system throughout the planning for the Nature Trail for All at Woodend. Bill, his wife, and two sons live in Silver Spring, MD and enjoy frequent trips to the natural beauty in Western Maryland.

Staff Updates



Farewell Lois



In September, we bid a fond farewell to our Deputy Director for Finance, **Lois Taylor**. After 10 ½ years of outstanding nonprofit accounting leadership with us, Lois is moving on to open her

own bookkeeping business. Lois was responsible for taking our financial management, planning and reporting to new heights. With Lois's guidance, our organization remained on sound financial footing even during the pandemic. Colleagues will miss Lois's exceptional mentoring, her patience and her problem-solving skills. We wish her all the best in her new endeavor.

Farewell Carol



Longtime ANS staffer **Carol Hayes** retired in November. Carol's was a face and name so many members knew. She handled logistics for the Nature Travel Program, coordinated birthday parties for a long time,

made sure employees got paid by processing payroll, and also assisted with the Crowder-Messersmith Fund, in addition to being the friendly face who greeted you when you visited Woodend. We will miss her genuine love of Nature Forward, her deep knowledge of nature, and her stunningly beautiful flower arrangements.

Welcome Erin



Erin Mosley joined Nature Forward in September as the Manager of Membership and Annual Giving. She most recently worked at the University of Maryland's Conferences & Visitor Services supporting academic

conferences, summer camps, and other campus events. Erin also has experience working for a variety of membership and advocacy associations in Maryland and DC. On the weekends, Erin enjoys spending time outdoors with her family and learning to sew.

Welcome Katrina



Katrina Busk joined the Nature Forward staff as the Administrative Assistant in October and has over 25 years of management and administrative experience. Her hobbies are traveling, singing, trivia, reading historical books,

and genealogy. Katrina lives a life of service, regularly donating her time and talents to causes that she is passionate about. She and her husband currently live in Rockville with their two dogs, Phoenix and Genesis.



Restoration

Goal Achieved: Treating 100% of Stormwater Runoff at Woodend

This November we installed a two-celled rain garden and a small conservation landscape along the driveway at Woodend. With the addition of this garden, along with several other “green infrastructure” practices installed in the past five years, we have achieved our goal of treating all the stormwater that falls on impervious surfaces at the sanctuary.

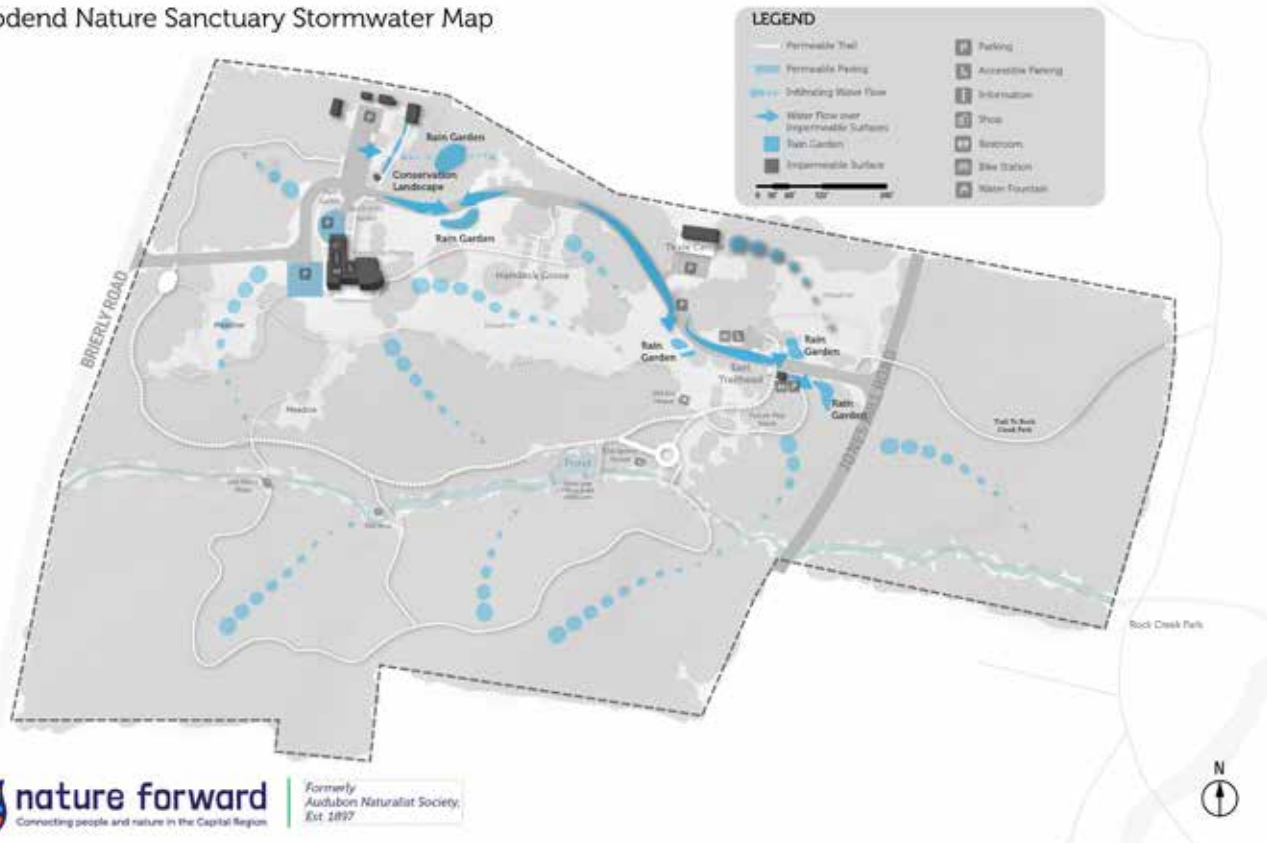
One way we approach the challenge of stormwater runoff at the Sanctuary is by limiting impervious surfaces wherever possible by using permeable materials for our trails and parking areas. For impermeable surfaces, such as the house itself, and our driveway, we use a suite of green infrastructure practices from conservation landscaping to rain gardens to infiltrate the water as close as possible to where it fell. Rain gardens are plantings optimized to infiltrate more than their “fair share” of rain water, so they can handle not only the rain that falls directly onto them, but also an area of impermeable surface that drains to it.

Along the driveway, our rain gardens receive water from the roadway via trench drains or curb cut. This water is then infiltrated with a variety of different structures. Some rain gardens include subdrains and gravel subbases, some use a sandy soil to encourage infiltration, and some rely on subsoil decompaction and topography to encourage infiltration. In all cases, they also provide habitat through their plantings.

In the case of our newest rain garden, the water will enter via a curb cut: while this has been constructed, it will remain blocked with sandbags until the spring, by which time the plants will have had time to establish. The rain garden itself consists of two stepped pools. If the volume of storm water exceeds what these two pools can hold, the overflow will go into a small conservation landscape where a series of small, planted berms will increase infiltration by slowing down the water as it flows down the slope.

Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), blue flag iris (*Iris virginica*), and gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*) are among the species enhancing infiltration and providing habitat value in our new rain garden.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary Stormwater Map



From Rags to Riches

The restoration team has been busy this fall restoring an ecotone area on the edge of the west meadow at Woodend. An ecotone is a transitional zone between two habitat types. These areas typically feature flora and fauna from both habitats and can be hotspots of biodiversity. However, in a fragmented landscape, meadow/forest ecotones are very susceptible to invasive species. The availability of light allows opportunistic species to establish rapidly, while the presence of trees provides a ladder for invasive vines to climb. Birds often perch in the trees along the forest edge, depositing invasive seeds in just the right place to take advantage of these conditions. Restoring these key areas yields numerous benefits for the surrounding ecosystems.

With the help of very dedicated volunteers, we removed invasive species such as multiflora rose and porcelain berry along the edge of a lobe of forest that extends into the west meadow. Thanks to the funding from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee we were able to plant the area with an assortment of native trees and shrubs. What was once dominated by two or three non-native species now has 40 native trees and shrubs, as well as a seeded mix of native grasses and wildflowers in-between. Provided to us by the Tree-Mendous program, we planted serviceberry, witch hazel, chokeberry, elderberry, sumac, arrowwood viburnum, persimmon, white oaks, and red oaks that will provide better food and shelter for wildlife.



Restoration area covered with Japanese angelica tree, porcelain berry, multiflora rose, and honeysuckle.

Woodend Tours

We hope to see you on a Woodend Tour this winter! These walks are led by Nature Forward staff and volunteers. For more information and to register, please visit natureforward.org/woodend-tours.

Family Walks at Woodend

Saturdays, 9-10 am

December 3, January 7, February 4,
March 4

Saturday Morning Bird Walks

9-10 am

December 10, January 14, February 11,
March 11



Volunteers planting native trees and shrubs in the ecotone area.





Garden Consultations

On-site Garden Coaching
& Garden Design

Learn more at natureforward.org/native-plant-gardening



CELEBRATE THE SEASON
WITH GIFTS FROM
THE
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Books • Binoculars • Birdseed
Games & Puzzles for All Ages
Palm-Free Soaps • Habitat-Friendly Coffee
Cards & Calendars • Much More!

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Open 11am-3pm
Closed Wednesday & Sunday

Staff Recommendations for the Holidays from the Woodend Nature Shop



Our Woodend Nature Shop is filled with treasures that will delight everyone on your gift-giving list this season, from educational kids games to binoculars for the bird watching enthusiasts. Here are my top three gifts recommendations:

The Mount Royal Soaps, made locally in Baltimore, MD in small batches, are wonderfully fragrant, plant based and created with low to zero waste. Next, is the Chesapeake Bay Roasting Co., Bird Friendly organic coffee. I love the Guatemala medium roast blend with notes of dark chocolate and orange. It's deliciously smooth. And you can't enjoy a cuppa Joe without a favorite mug—handcrafted, unique art pottery mugs from Mt. Pleasant, NY artisans, would make a great gift for the coffee lover.

Monica Botto, Woodend Nature Shop Assistant



The Woodend Nature Shop is an excellent source for unique children's gifts! My 7-year-old and 11-year-old are always thrilled with gifts from the shop. They love to visit and check out the latest puzzles and games. Their new favorite game is Super Slow Sloths and Penguins Rock is next on their wish list. They are also happy to add to their collection of plushies, especially the plush birds that make authentic bird sounds. Wild Kratts books are consistently a hit with my second grader and my fifth grader takes her Paint by Sticker (birds edition) book wherever she goes lately! There are so many fun options for kids of all ages. You can't go wrong with a gift from the Woodend Nature Shop!

Erin Mosley, Manager of Membership and Annual Giving

I absolutely love butterflies. Butterflies are beautiful insects, but I also love what they represent. Butterflies represent beauty, change, transformation, comfort, hope, and positivity. I have found so many wonderful items with butterflies in our Nature Shop from necklaces and earrings to coffee mugs and beautiful books. What a nice mug to drink my winter cups of hot cocoa out of! I also have school age grandchildren and our Nature Shop is a great place to shop for gifts from grandma that will nurture their love and curiosity about nature. I have found stuffed animals, games, coloring books, puzzles and illustrated books, just to name a few. Fun and learning for all ages!

Katrina Busk, Administrative Assistant



My family is big into playing board games, so when I saw that the Nature Shop had Wingspan along with several expansions, I knew it would be one to try out with the family this winter! As an artist, I also love the beautiful artwork of Wingspan. Whether you're a bird enthusiast, or a board game strategist (or both like me!), check out Wingspan!

Jeff Chandler, GreenKids Director

Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support Nature Forward is to designate **Nature Forward 75493** in the 2022 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



A very happy birthday to longtime Nature Forward member **FK Millar** as she celebrates her 100th year!

Car Magnets

Have you picked up a Nature Forward car magnet and found it doesn't stick to the back of your car? The new magnet may not work if your trunk or hatch is plastic, as is usually the case with hybrid or electric cars. Please try sticking it on the gas cap or plug cap of the car. And if you'd like a car magnet, ask for one the next time you're at the Woodend Nature Shop!

Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion



Weddings

Corporate Events

Milestones



Climate-controlled tent included
woodendsanctuary.org

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS August-October 2022

IN HONOR OF:

Bill Adams

Keith Shank

Ali Culhane

Vanessa Borg

Robert & Melinda Elvander

Erika Elvander

Neal Fitzpatrick

JL Rosner

Mary Mitchell

Cheryl Iglesia

Michelle Sklow

Solomon Stevens

Ishmati Gail Tiwari

Cheryl Iglesia

Karen "Wren" Wilhelm

Carey Creed

Ali Culhane

Vanessa Borg

IN MEMORY OF:

David Griffin

Sylvia & Tim Pryor

Virginia Johnson-Rollag

Mark Ruddel

Jim Lemert

Bill Yeaman

Ken Morphy

Kelene Kenny

Leo Murano and Lucy

Kelene Kenny

Marge Novinsky

Bill Yeaman

Ann Elizabeth Ratcliffe

Sallee Garner

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

- Cancellations must be made at least six working days before the beginning of the program to be eligible for a credit to your account, less a \$5 administrative fee.
- If an adult foray is cancelled by Nature Forward due to low enrollment, you will receive a full refund. If a weather-related concern or another issue outside of our 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.

Nature Forward 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@natureforward.org and ask to receive the Naturalist Quarterly by email.

You can help us continue to protect Nature for All with a special year-end gift to Nature Forward!

At Nature Forward we never lose hope. We see children and adults taking action every day to protect nature. It all starts with people like you.

With your support, Nature Forward will continue to defend wildlife and local ecosystems, protect our streams, and teach people about the natural world right here at home.

Please send a special year-end gift today. Whether you can give \$25, \$50, \$100, or even \$500, every dollar counts.

Continue to protect nature for yourself, your loved ones and our future generations by making your tax-deductible, year-end gift by December 31.

You can donate online at natureforward.org/yearend



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Congratulations to the 2022 Master Naturalist graduates! Pictured top row from left: Anika Binnendijk, Aly Fulton, Marie Jones, Serenella Linares (Director of Adult Education), Elizabeth Sartain, Jamoni Overby, Matthew LaVeck. Pictured bottom row from left: Ilisa Tawney, Lee Anne Graeb, Elaine Anderson, Peggy Eskow, Sally Winthrop, Delia Houseal, Luis Fermin, Elizabeth Graham. Not pictured: Caroline Beckam, Okima Bryant, Amanda Heirtzler. Photo by Ben Israel.