



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

**GROUND'S 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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# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

## ANShome.org Winter 2015

From the Director	3
Gifts that Keep Giving <i>By Kelli Holsendolph</i>	4
Conservation	6
ANS Annual Meeting 2014 <i>By Cathy Grubman</i>	7
Children and Family Programs	8
Rust Classes/Programs	11
Adult Programs	12
CALENDAR	16
The Green Quill Club <i>By Rick Borchelt</i>	21
Water Quality Monitoring	22
Free Birding Trips	23
Natural History Field Studies	24
Nature Travel	26
ANS News	28
The Bat Brigade at Woodend <i>By Cathy Grubman</i>	29
Join the Nest: Beginner Bird Walks <i>By Cathy Grubman</i>	30
Registration Info	31

**COVER** The word cloud was developed from the letter mailed to ANS members and supporters at this year's end.



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

## From the Director

### The Gifts of Nature

As the holiday season approaches, I try to resist the material temptations that arrive in my mailbox each day and focus instead on less commercial pleasures of the season. There are so many ways to enjoy the gifts of nature as winter arrives. With leaves off the trees we can admire the beautiful form of trunks and branches silhouetted against the sky. Now is the time when the red fruits of chokeberry and hollies pop.

This is the season when I am dazzled by survival strategies. I admire that oddball Rice Krispie treat of an egg case deposited by the praying mantis female to guard up to two hundred mantis eggs through winter. Shiver as you picture the wood frog frozen nearly solid (a frogsicle?) in the coldest months. High glucose levels in its internal organs act as antifreeze to keep frog systems viable until spring. Now is the time I stock up on birdseed to attract feeding flocks of juncos, titmice, chickadees and nuthatches to my feeder. By combining their skills to help one another find food and avoid predators, these mixed species groups stick together in winter and improve their chances of surviving for the future.

Audubon Naturalist Society members remind me of these eye-catching feeding flocks. We all come to our appreciation of nature from different viewpoints – birds, trees, wildflowers, fungi, insects. It's okay to admit that each of us has favorites in nature. But together, we are stronger. We bring the gifts of knowledge and curiosity to the organization. Our shared passion for nature enables us to win victories that protect natural places

## LETTERS

### ANS Members Praise 2014 Annual Report, Annual Meeting

"... the report looks 'gorgeous' and marvelous" – Mike Gravitz, ANS Board Member

"Very nice looking annual report, congratulations." – Timothy McTaggart, ANS Board Member

"Awesome report, both in content and presentation! I especially like your emphasis on building for the future." – Bonnie VanDorn, ANS Board Member

"This is gorgeous!" – Karen Snyder, Gaithersburg, MD

"Really enjoyed the meeting and the dinner. Thanks. Very informative." – Eleanor Balaban, Glen Echo, MD

"Annual Report is simply fantastic. Congratulations. New standard bearer." – Jennifer Judd Hinrichs, ANS Board Member

### Rust Gets Cub Scout Badge of Awesome!

Thank you so much for organizing such a great informative Sanctuary tour. Scouts and parents are so excited and happy about this event.

I must say it is like a hidden gem in Leesburg. I am happy that I found it. Rust Manor Tour was amazing also it was like cherry on top of the cake.

Keep up the great work.

Neeru Verma, Bear Cub Scout leader, Den 6 Pack 1484



like Ten Mile Creek. Enthusiasm for nature is catching. We strengthen one another's understanding and passion for protecting the fascinating, ever-changing environment around us. Isn't it amazing to think that members have been sustaining Audubon Naturalist Society for the past 117 winters?!

This issue of the Naturalist Quarterly features the many ways that Audubon Naturalist Society members give to the organization. Volunteers, contributors, teachers, parents and members give generously across the board to support our mission – from leading bird walks to organizing the Nature Preschool Reuse It Sale, from pulling invasives to funding our smartphone Creek Critters app, from volunteering in the shop to supporting new signs for Woodend Sanctuary. The diversity and generosity of your giving makes me proud to lead an organization where all of us work together to ensure Audubon Naturalist Society survives and thrives.

Don't forget to slow down and share the gift of nature this holiday season. Take time for yourself to admire a windswept winter meadow, hike in the woods on a crisp day or gaze out the window at feasting birds. Invite a neighbor to attend an Audubon Naturalist Society nature program with you. Treat someone special to an ANS membership. Find a one-of-a-kind nature gift for your family at the Naturalist Shop. And please, give generously at year end. Just like that winter feeding flock, by combining our resources we can safeguard Audubon Naturalist Society's future for many winters to come.

With thanks and warm wishes for a holiday season filled with nature,



**STAFF UPDATES:** We welcome **Richard Goldberg** as ANS's new Director of Finance and Administration. Richard comes to ANS with deep experience in financial analysis and planning in both the nonprofit and for profit sectors. Richard's nonprofit experience includes work for The Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the American College of Cardiology. We're delighted to have **Alison Pearce**, a former ANS staff member in our Environmental Education department, rejoin the staff as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Alison is already helping to shape the ANS volunteer program to further our mission. Lastly, we have a new Grant Writer, **Laura Sebastianelli**. Laura has a wonderful background in Environmental Education as well as grant writing and management. A warm welcome to all!



# Gifts that Keep Giving

by Kelli Holsendolph

As the clock winds down on 2014 and the countdown to the New Year begins, we thank you—our members, supporters, volunteers—our dedicated community of nature-enthusiasts.

2014 has been a great year for ANS. Your generous support helped Save Ten Mile Creek; reach the next generation of citizen scientists with the development of our new Creek Critters smart phone app; and grow nature-loving families by helping us offer nature education for all ages—from Fresh Air Kids at Rust Sanctuary to Weekend Walks in the Woods at Woodend to everything else in between.

And together, we're just getting started!

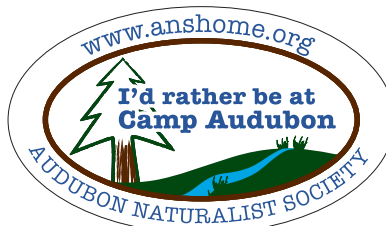
ANS's success is impossible without you. You define us as an organization. As you read a few of the stories of contributions made this year from within the ANS community, please consider making a special year-end tax-deductible contribution of your own to ANS. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by December 31. Please, make a gift today at [anshome.org](http://anshome.org)/donate.

## Chris Wright, ANS Supporter

Several years ago Chris Wright was talking to ANS Executive Director Lisa Alexander about all these bumper stickers he was seeing saying "my kid is a genius at such and such school." Chris thought ANS should have its own sticker proudly proclaiming, "my kid is a naturalist at ANS," or something more clever. Well, Chris forgot all about it, but Lisa didn't. Last year, ANS developed two car magnets one for campers, which reads "I'd rather be at Camp Audubon" and one for supporters, "I'd rather be in Nature." Lisa shared the slogans and designs with Chris, who generously

agreed to fund the magnets. Chris humbly refers to his gift as "giving it forward."

"It was fun to be part of a prototype effort to get our name out in the community. My real ambition is for Audubon Naturalist Society to be a name recognizable in every household in the area. Our power as an environmental organization comes from the number of people we represent. A car magnet is a recruiting tool, a little symbol that advertises that you're proud to be part of this organization. I'd like to see lots of them every time I pull into a parking lot. I'd like people to ask me, 'what's that sticker about?'"



Thinking about the design for a magnet makes you ask some basic questions. What exactly is ANS trying to represent on a little ten-inch oval? For a long time I've been interested in 'what we'll become when we grow up.' I think we're about to grow up. I see a new focus and clarity of purpose. Personally, I'm excited about the future of Woodend (if we can keep the deer from eating it bare) and about developing our water quality expertise into a model for citizen science stream monitoring. This is great, practical stuff! On a larger scale, I hope to see the day when ANS is the most potent environmental advocate in the region. We need to invest in ANS because we need a strong environmental organization to defend the nature

on our doorstep. I think we're not just contributing for the past but investing in the future."

—Chris Wright

## Teen Naturalists in Training (TNT's)

ANS launched the Teen Naturalist Training (TNT) program in 2012. The TNT program is for entering ninth and tenth graders. TNT's earn Student Service Learning hours while volunteering in ANS summer camps. They enjoy hands-on seminars in natural history and gain valuable leadership skills by working with the younger campers. During the summers of 2013 and 2014, ANS taught 53 teens what it takes to be ANS naturalists through the program. This summer's TNT's gave the next crop coming behind them some advice:

*Dear TNT's, If you are reading this, we have just endured 3 weeks of hikes, band-aids, bee stings, goldfish, capture the flag, and wild grazing. Don't worry, you'll have fun, just remember, these kids pick up EVERYTHING you say. And I mean EVERYTHING... Also, watch out for small boys grabbing your butt and slapping it. Be aware that a swinging hand is considered free for the grabbing... and that an empty lap is a place to sit on. Don't fall in capture the flag if the grass is slippery. Goldfish are currency here so keep it all to yourself. I'm serious. Sharing goldfish isn't caring... All TNT's must play C.T.F. (capture the flag) as it brings out the best (and sometimes the worst) of the kid. Have fun and try to relate to the kids. Lose all self-consciousness. Do crazy fun stuff...*



*Make sure to smile a lot! The kids are amazing (and quite often adorable) and the best thing in the world is to know that you're giving them great memories that will last forever... Good Luck, TNT's*

### Patricia Jackson, ANS Volunteer

Patricia Jackson has volunteered at Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, Virginia for the past five years. She started volunteering at Rust in the gift shop, when there was one still there, after her husband passed away in 2009. After the Rust shop closed, she remembers ANS Environmental Education Program Manager Susanne Ortmann and former-ANS staffer Julie Gurnee asked if she would help with school programs. Pat is a valued member of the Rust team.

"I do whatever is necessary...like defrosting a frozen mouse for our corn snake Ziggy's meal, or measuring the circumference of a mature white oak with yarn for a school activity. Most of the time I do the background work for the different classes, copying, laminating, putting together packages for various teaching programs... whatever facilitates these programs.

I think we have a planet to hand on to our children...in the past we have not always been knowledgeable in our choices environmentally, because we knew no better. Now we do, and we have a responsibility to teach the young of today what must be done to protect this beautiful world we live in."

—Pat Jackson

### Master Naturalist Volunteers

For the past four years, ANS has been a host site for the Maryland Master Naturalist Volunteer training program in coordination with the University of Maryland Extension. The training program includes high-quality classroom instruction and hands-on field work. Upon completing the training, Master Naturalists give 40 hours of volunteer time back to ANS. Graduates of the program often become some of ANS's most engaged volunteers. Master Naturalists are

leading our Weekend Walks in the Woods family programs, tackling invasive species around Woodend, contributing to our Sanctuary Master Plan, and even volunteering as instructors for subsequent Master Naturalist Volunteer classes. Meet the 2014 Master Naturalist Volunteer class:

**Stacey Anderson** – "I hope to connect more deeply with nature, acquire knowledge, and nourish my soul."



**Anjela Barnes** – It is Anjela's goal to combine her passion for the natural environment and creative talents to educate and advocate through photography and design.

**Lisa Burke** – "Previously a partner at a large international law firm in Washington, D.C., my current passion is hands-on environmental education for children."

**Linda Davidson** – "I am a retired nurse-midwife and have lived in Maryland for five years now, and looking forward to knowing and understanding more about this unique environment and its inhabitants."

**Patty Friedman** – "I believe we must expose this next generation to our love of the outdoors, especially in urban areas where Nature Deficit Syndrome is a real phenomenon."

**Mike Gerecht** – "I have always appreciated the outdoors, thanks to growing up in Montgomery County with woods in my back yard and having a mother who loved learning about nature and passing on her knowledge to others."

**Karen Johnson** – "Single parent, mother of three, grandmother of seven, I've only late found this interest in the natural world. It has emerged slowly over two years, beginning when wondering about a bird I kept meeting during evening walks along a fallow cornfield. It was a sand crane."

**Laura Fisher Kaiser** – Laura is a writer and editor whose work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, NPR, Slate, ScienceNews, The Los Angeles Times, Texas Monthly, American Health, Nature Conservancy, and elsewhere.

**Barbara Lewis** – "My sons call me a 'tree hugger' because I have a deep respect for Nature and all of her flora and fauna."

**Stephen Panossian** – "I am grateful to ANS for this opportunity to learn more about Maryland's flora and fauna, and I look forward to meeting my fellow Master Naturalists!"

**Nieves Santos** – "I have always had connections to rural areas and through my life I've looked for closer and closer contact with nature."

**Lissie (Barbara) Sorensen** – "I hope to use the Master Naturalist training as a springboard to a new level of environmental stewardship."

**Debra Street** – "I would like to help others become curious about nature as I have been and learn more about the natural world around them."

**Jim Tate** – "I am a biologist who has recently entered my fourth career of learning, sharing and hopefully influencing...I am a fly fisherman, bow hunter and bird watcher."

**Paula Wang** – Paula retired from a 30-year teaching career in June 2014. Over the past 23 years, she taught high school biology and AP environmental science at the Sidwell Friends School.

**Heather Zindash** – "I created The Soulful Gardener, a blog and website where I tell stories from the garden and teach readers how to connect with nature right in their own backyard."



2014 Volunteer Master Naturalist Class/Alison Pearce

# Conservation

## Sharpening the Focus for ANS Conservation Advocacy

ANS Executive Director Lisa Alexander and Conservation Director Diane Cameron recently led a mini-onsite retreat for a cross section of staff from development, communications, conservation and environmental education to map out the future of ANS's conservation advocacy efforts moving forward.

During the retreat, we charted out a broad strategy; analyzed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats facing our work; and drafted a plan for regular advocacy outreach.

Some of the goals for this new direction for ANS conservation advocacy include increasing the number of people and partners engaged in our work; producing more data, voices and examples of local clean water challenges; and ANS serving as the change agent for local clean water policy and individual behavior change to produce cleaner streams. Some of the annual activities on the horizon include establishing a Watershed Advocacy Boot Camp training for local partners and producing an annual State of the Streams Report.

Stay tuned for an exciting New Year in conservation advocacy at ANS!

## Parking Lot for Local Mosque Threatens Upper Paint Branch

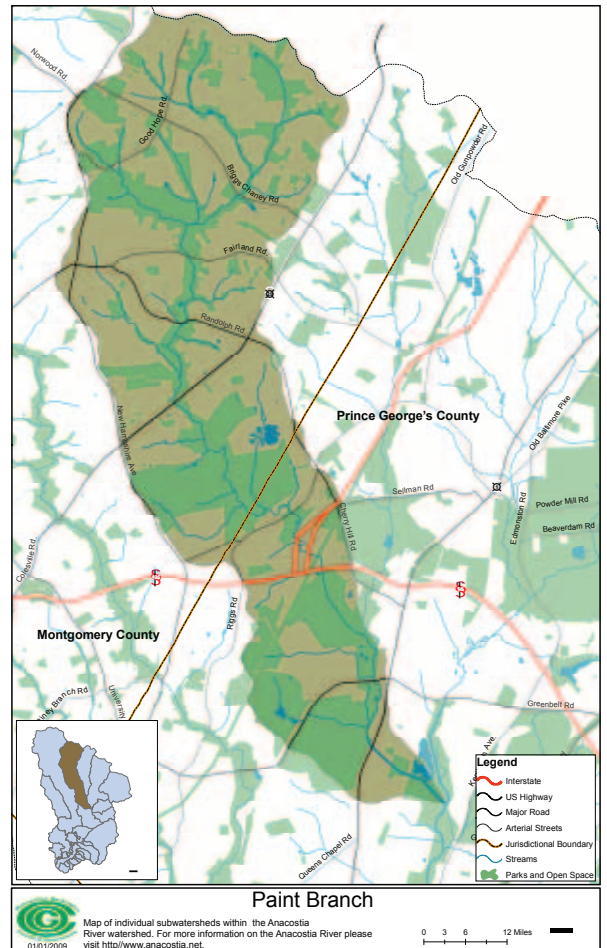
We talk about watersheds all the time at Audubon Naturalist Society. A watershed can be defined as "a waterbody plus all of the land that drains to it." Thanks to the generosity of the Summit Fund of Washington, ANS conservation advocates have worked for the past decade in partnership with other groups to restore the Anacostia River watershed. Paint Branch is one of the Anacostia's subwatersheds for which ANS has fiercely advocated restoration and protection.

Paint Branch starts in eastern Montgomery County and flows south-east into Prince George's, joining Indian Creek in College Park to form the river's Northwest Branch. Seventy-two percent of Paint Branch's land area is in Montgomery with the remaining 28 percent in Prince George's County. Upper Paint Branch is regionally significant for harboring a trout fishery. Twenty years ago, Montgomery County added Upper Paint Branch into its Special Protection Area program. As a result, Upper Paint Branch has a mandatory 8 percent imperviousness cap. At each development site the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Department of Permitting Services enforces the amount of pavement that can be applied to this fragile ecosystem.

Landowners of all types—Montgomery County Public Schools, churches and residents—have taken pains to comply with this crucial limit by shrinking development footprints, removing excess pavement on-site, and purchasing land elsewhere in the watershed to convert it from pavement to forest.

Now, the Islamic Society of the Washington Area (ISWA), a mosque in Upper Paint Branch, wants to expand its parking capacity. ANS is working with the Eyes of Paint Branch, Montgomery Countryside Alliance and the DC Green Muslims to find creative ways to get the mosque more parking while respecting the Upper Paint Branch pavement limit and keeping the creek and its fishery healthy.

Eyes of Paint Branch President David Dunmire led mosque leaders and members on a hike in Paint Branch Stream Valley Park in mid-November to showcase the fragility of the ecosystem. ANS will continue to work with all partners, landowners and decision makers to respect nature's limits in ways that meet community needs.



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

# ANS Annual Meeting 2014

By Cathy Grubman

More than 150 members and friends turned out for the Audubon Naturalist Society's 2014 Annual Meeting—"A Time to Listen"—held at Woodend Sanctuary on October 23. A delicious buffet dinner, including cocktail hour and coffee/dessert was generously provided by **Main Event Caterers**.

Bethesda residents **Jim and Ann Nelson**, who have been ANS members for 35 years, attend the meeting each year, "to hear what's going on and find out more." Jim Nelson is a former ANS board member.

"We also like to see old friends and meet new ones," added Ann Nelson.

Early in the evening, "Conversation Stations," located in the Great Hall and Dining Room, piqued the interests of several ANS members. At the stations, ANS staff listened to member input on the ANS brand, member diversity and Woodend Sanctuary. In the Library, the Board of Directors were also available to listen and talk with members.

But the main topic of the night was the success of saving Ten Mile Creek. From the podium, Board President **Lee Babcock** called it a "hard-fought campaign" and especially thanked ANS Conservation Director **Diane Cameron** and Board Member **Mike Gravitz** for their heroic efforts.

"Diane and Mike were out front, drawing that line in the sand," said Babcock. "But they couldn't have done it without the support of our members...you are treasured and appreciated."

**Lisa Alexander** reflected on her first year as ANS Executive Director, calling it an honor and a privilege to serve. "This is my dream job," she said. "And I get to dream big with you."

Speaking of future goals, Alexander noted habitat and watershed restoration as top priorities for the Woodend Sanctuary. She challenged ANS to get ready for more visitors as the Department of Transportation projects that Woodend will be Metro accessible by 2020. Alexander also emphasized how important technology is for environmental education and outreach—from the Creek Critters smart phone app to engaging members and potential members online.

Treasurer **Paul D'Andrea** reported ANS was "on strong financial footing," with \$300K more grant dollars this year. But "the foundation for the organization is contributions," he noted. (According to the Annual Report, contributions were approximately \$1.4 million.)

## ANS Annual Report 2014

The ANS Annual Report 2014 is available in both an online version and printable PDF format. Thanks to the continued support of its valued members, ANS made some significant accomplishments this year. Please find the 2014 Annual Report online at [anshome.org](http://anshome.org) under About ANS.

The online presentation of the Annual Report, designed by **A.J. Campbell** of **CoSynergy**, was a big hit.

"This is the first year we did a mini-site," said **Kelli Holsendolph**, ANS Director of Marketing and Communications. "The content is enhanced and it's more visual, more interesting to read."

Also on the evening's agenda was recognition for some important ANS teachers, students and volunteers. **Odette Scovel**, a science supervisor with the Loudoun County Public Schools, was awarded the Marcia Sward Environmental Education Award, presented by GreenKids Program Director **Diane Lill**.

Next, Development Director **Jacky Wershale** applauded the many ANS volunteers—from envelope stuffers to stream monitors. However, it was **Jack Shultz**, "a Jack of-seemingly-all-volunteer-trades," Wershale spotlighted for his work particularly as an ANS ambassador and advocate at Combined Federal Campaign events.

Senior Naturalist **Stephanie Mason** awarded certificates to the 2014 Natural History Field Studies graduating class; nine students fulfilled requirements and three were in attendance.

Outgoing board member **Patty O'Malley** was recognized by Lee Babcock for her remarkable service.

And finally, the new board candidates were voted in to enthusiastic: "Yeas!" ANS board members up for re-election included: **Val Broadie, Leslie Catherwood, Paul D'Andrea, Mike Gravitz, Jennifer Judd Hinrichs** and **Laura Stierle**. New board members included **Allyn Finegold** and **Scott Fosler**.

ANS member **Barbara Bates** said she likes to attend the annual meeting because "it's an opportunity to see the new board members and catch up with what's going on the past year." The DC resident added, "and there's a nice lecture to go along with it."

Special guest **Mike Raupp**, professor of entomology at the University of Maryland, did not disappoint. He ended the evening with his talk entitled "Food, Sex, and Earthly Delights: The Pollinators in My Garden." It was a wonderful evening.

Our special thanks to **Luca Casareto** of **Ikona Photography, Inc.** for generously donating his services for the evening as well.



ANS members enjoy a delicious dinner courtesy of Main Event Caterers.

Ikona Photography

# 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 in all kinds of ways – 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!

## Weekend Walks in the Woods - Free Family Nature Walks!

Saturdays, December 6, January 3, February 7 (9-10 am)



Beth Armitage

Join our Volunteer Master Naturalists on the first Saturday of each month from 9-10 am for a nature hike around Woodend Sanctuary. Each hike will have a unique and exciting natural history theme. Programs are appropriate for family members of all ages and no registration is necessary. Please come prepared to hike in sneakers and don't forget your water bottle. We hope you will join us for our

exciting new programs each month! Meet at the amphitheater by the main house.

## Holiday Eco Crafts

Saturday, December 6 (10-11:30 am)



ANS EE photo

Would you like to build a snowman out of recycled bottles caps, or toilet papers tubes, or baby food jars and glitter? Sign up quick for this popular family crafting day at ANS. We will listen to fun music, sip hot cider and make great holiday crafts that young ones can give as gifts all out of recycled or natural materials. Come early for our Free Family Walk in the Woods at 9 am, then stay for family crafting at

10:00! Email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org) to register. **Bring a \$10 materials fee to the program (per family).**

## GreenKids

**An Environmental Program in Search of ... a Few Good Montgomery & Loudoun County Public Schools**

Would your school benefit from these FREE services?

- Environmental activities that meet MCPS & LCPS standards
- Two years of free classroom visits from Audubon naturalists
- Materials funds for Schoolyard Projects
- Field trip subsidies to Audubon Nature Sanctuaries

Principals, teachers, and parents interested in having their schools join GreenKids, contact Diane Lill, Project Director, at [diane.lill@anshome.org](mailto:diane.lill@anshome.org). For more information, visit [ansgreenkids.org](http://ansgreenkids.org).

## Nature Birthday Parties

Give your child the gift of nature with a party at one of our sanctuaries!

BOOK ONLINE!

- Ages 4-10
- Weekends and Fridays year-round
- Members \$225; Nonmembers \$260
- Choose among many nature themes

Download a birthday party brochure or book online at [ANSHome.org/birthday](http://ANSHome.org/birthday).

Chevy Chase, MD: 301-652-9188 x10  
Leesburg, VA: 703-669-0000



ANS EE photo

## Audubon Afterschool MD Nature Clubs

[ANSHome.org/afterschool](http://ANSHome.org/afterschool)

Let ANS bring the wonder of nature to your school with our Afterschool Nature Clubs! Clubs run for a 6-week period at your school for 1-2 hours each week. Contact James Robey at [james.robey@anshome.org](mailto:james.robey@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x45 for more info.

## School's Out—Naturally

By Cathy Grubman

When school's out, the Audubon Naturalist Society is in!

And the learning is non-stop, no matter the weather or time of year. At a recent School's Out Nature Camp, held at ANS's Woodend Sanctuary there was ample opportunity to learn about the natural environment—even though it was raining.

"It's our lucky day," said ANS Environmental Education Program Manager Jen Wolfe. "It's raining so it gives us an opportunity to learn about the watershed. Everybody, get your boots on!"

And off went the middle schoolers. The children started at the parking lot to investigate its impermeable surface and watched the water slowly trickle into a storm drain. Then they headed down to the pond, which is fed by a small stream to observe the run-off in action.

To fulfill student service learning credits, "they are working on a storm water mapping project today," said Wolfe (also known as Mayfly—each teacher has a "nature" name).

Meanwhile, grades K-5 were busy learning about bugs from their teachers Alex Rausch (aka Slug) and Samantha Roth, Chesapeake Conservation Corps Volunteer, who hadn't picked her nature name yet. A rousing game of Head-Thorax-Abdomen (to the tune of Head-Shoulders-Knees-and-Toes) kept kids moving. On the table nearby were stacks of books about invertebrates—crustaceans, insects, worms and centipedes—next to an art project (coloring insect designs). The class was planning to go outside after lunch for some field games and a hike. Finding bugs was on the list too, along with learning about stream and pond restoration. Third-grader Thomas said he likes being outside in the woods even if it's raining and had an extra pair of shoes, just in case.

"It's a really different way to spend the day off school. It's less formal and the kids get to run around, be in nature. They love it, and we love them being here," said ANS's Youth Education Director Karen Vernon.

## School's Out Nature Camp

*On one-day holidays!*

### Rust Nature Sanctuary

Monday, January 19

### Woodend Nature Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 20

Friday, March 27

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Members \$70 per day

Nonmembers \$80 per day

Mail/fax in form found on [anshome.org](http://anshome.org) to register for camps at Woodend and email [Susanne.Ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:Susanne.Ortmann@anshome.org) to register for Rust camps..

### Grades K-5: Nature Adventures

We pack each day with a variety of nature-themed, hands-on activities including outdoor exploration, nature hikes, field games, and crafts.

### Grades 6-9: Eco-Team Service Learning

Earn SSL hours while learning about the natural environment. Each day focuses on an environmental theme with four hours of service learning projects and tons of nature fun.



*Always a teachable moment! Campers learn about stormwater runoff during September School's Out Camp at Woodend. Photo Credit: Cathy Grubman*



ANS EE photo

## Spring Break Camp

Monday, April 6-Friday, April 10  
(8:30 am-3 pm)

Members \$331;

Nonmembers \$416

Extended camp 3-6 pm (\$100)

## Signs of Spring (Grades K-5)

Check out what's happening on the Sanctuary this Spring during our week long spring break camp. We'll do some great weather experiments to understand the change in seasons; investigate the salamander and frog eggs in the pond; and make some musical instruments to re-create the sounds of the forest! Join us for this beautiful time of year on our nature sanctuary.

## Eco Team (Grades 6-9)

Earn 20 SSL hours and enjoy a great time outdoors on our sanctuary this Spring Break. We will do a creek clean up, spring garden planting, and the ever popular attack of the alien invaders. All of our projects come with a lesson on the science behind the related environmental issues as well as a lot of games, fun, camp fires and s'mores.

**Registration for Spring Break Camp begins online on Saturday, January 24 with the opening of summer camp registration. No paper registrations accepted.**

## Summer Camp 2015 Important Dates

**Monday, December 8, 2014**

Last day to become a member and be eligible for members-only registration

**Late December, 2014**

Catalog mailed

**Saturday, January 24, 2015, 9 a.m.**

Registration opens to ANS members who joined by 12/8

**Friday, January 30, 2015, 9 a.m.**

Registration opens to nonmembers and to new members who joined after 12/8

## 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! Backpacks are free for check-out in the shop but must be returned by 4:30 pm.



## Open House Dates

**Saturday, February 7  
(9:30-11 am)**

**Friday, February 20  
(11 am-1 pm)**

**Saturday, February 21  
(9:30-11 am)**

**No RSVP necessary, children encouraged to attend.**



The Audubon Nature Preschool offers programs for children ages 2½ to 5 years. 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 and follow the MCPS calendar.

## Drop-off Programs

### 4-Day AM and PM Classes

3½–5 year olds

Mondays through Thursdays

Morning program, 8:45-11:45 am

Afternoon program, 12:45-3:15 pm

## Parent and Child Programs

### Tagalong Thursdays

4 years old and younger

Sibling discount eligible

Thursdays, 9:30-11 am

### Parent-Tot Fridays

2½–3½ years old

Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am

### QUESTIONS?

Call 301-652-9188 x32 or visit our website [www.ANShome.org/preschool](http://www.ANShome.org/preschool).

## APPLY ONLINE

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



ANS EE photo

## Audubon Environmental Science Programs

**Explore nature with  
your students!**

Bring your class to Woodend or Rust Sanctuary for a hands-on field trip experience, or let us come to you with our Naturalist in Your Classroom program! All of our programs are correlated with Montgomery County Curriculum 2.0, the Next Generation Science Standards and the Virginia Science Standards of Learning.

**NEW THIS YEAR - BOOK YOUR PROGRAM ONLINE!**

Our 2014-2015 school program brochure is available at [ANShome.org/school](http://ANShome.org/school). **New in-class programs for 2014-2015!**

## Stone and Holt Weeks Scholarship

The Stone and Holt Weeks Nature Field Trip Scholarship is awarded once a semester to a DC public or charter school for students in Pre-K through 2nd grade and covers up to \$1,000 of program and bus transportation fees. To learn more about this scholarship opportunity, visit [ANShome.org/school](http://ANShome.org/school).

Spring 2015 Scholarship Deadline: Friday, February 20, 2015

# Rust / Northern Virginia

## Full Moon Night Hike and Camp Fire

Saturday, December 6 (6-7:30 pm); All ages  
 Cost: \$5 per person

Under a full moon, the 68 acres at Rust Nature Sanctuary take on a new look, feel, and memory. Explore with us as we hike its grounds and listen for owls and many of the fascinating night sounds of the woods. Absorb the peace, tranquility, and beauty of what nature offers us at night under the stars and moon. The adventure will end with a camp fire and light snacks. Headlights will be provided. Hiking shoes required. Space is limited - call 703-669-0000 or email emcdougall@anshome.org to register.

## Fresh Air Kids

Fridays, January 9-February 27 (10-11:30 am)  
 Cost: \$75 (siblings 21 months and older: \$60)

Children are born naturalists. The Rust Nature Sanctuary builds on a child'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 aged 5 and younger along with a parent or caregiver. Classes meet on Fridays for **8 weeks** and take place entirely outdoors on our 68-acre nature sanctuary. If inclement weather arises we will head indoors to our cozy Discovery Room. This class will involve crafts, songs, books and always a hike. Bring a lunch and/or snack and meet other caregivers! To register call 703-669-0000 or email susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.



**RUST NATURE SANCTUARY**

KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE

703-669-0000 | ANShome.org/Rust  
 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia

## New! Unplug and Play Afterschool Programs

We are expanding our popular afterschool program, Unplug and Play! Combining science education and physical activity, we have created a program to get kids outside to discover their natural world. Our qualified naturalists will run a six-week session of outdoor games, hikes, and eco-crafts, with a different theme each week. Themes include migration, plant basics, mammals, and animal habitats. Typical hours for our afterschool program are 2:45-3:45 pm. Naturalists are available to teach Monday-Friday, one day per week for six weeks. To run the program, ANS requires a minimum of eight students. Call Ellen McDougall at (703) 669-0000 or email emcdougall@anshome.org for more information and to book your school's afterschool club!

Susanne Ortmann



## School's Out Nature Camps Nature Adventures

Ages K-5  
 Monday, January 19 (8:30 am-4:30 pm)  
 Members \$70 per day; nonmembers \$80 per day

We pack the day with a variety of nature-themed, hands-on activities including outdoor exploration, nature hikes, field games, and crafts. Contact Susanne Ortmann at susanne.ortmann@anshome.org for more info and to register.



### Nature Birthday Parties

Give your child the gift of nature with a party at Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, VA or the Broadlands Nature Center in Broadlands, VA. Parties are held weekends year-round. Many nature themes to choose from! Download a brochure at ANShome.org/birthday.

Contact Ellen McDougall for more information: emcdougall@anshome.org or 703-669-0000.

# 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.

## NEW - ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS - NEW

- Visit [www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms) and click on "Register Online."
- All adult program participants will be "New Users" the first time they register.
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Have a credit postcard? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x 16 to hear options.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).

## Winter Birding at Black Hill

Section A: Saturday, December 6 (8:30-11 am) **FULL**

Section B: Sunday, January 4 (8:30-11 am) **FULL**

Section C: Saturday, February 7 (8:30-11 am)

Section D: Sunday, March 1 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Mark England

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

Entire series \$72/\$104

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

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

Winter schedule: December 6, January 3, February 7. Weekly walks resume in March. Meet at the Audubon Sanctuary Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. No registration required.



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK

## Natural Heritage Series: Peirce Mill to Pulpit Rock

Saturday, December 6 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Steve Dryden

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Join Steve Dryden (author of [Peirce Mill: Two Hundred Years in the Nation's Capital](#)) and Melanie Choukas-Bradley (author of the forthcoming [A Year in Rock Creek Park: the Wild, Wooded Heart of Washington, DC](#)) for a winter stroll from Peirce Mill to the scenic crest of Pulpit Rock. Learn about the historic mill that has been grinding grain in the nation's capital since before the Revolutionary War. Our leaders will share some of the history of Rock Creek Park as it prepares to celebrate 125 years as one of America's first and most beloved federal parks. As we walk to Pulpit Rock at a leisurely pace, Melanie will point out the woody plants along the hillside above Rock Creek and teach some tricks for winter identification. *Our distance will be 2-3 miles, on a mix of natural and paved-surface trails. Most of the hike is over relatively flat terrain, but there will be a half mile of relatively steep woodland trail.*

## Birding the Shenandoah Valley

**FULL**

Sunday, December 7 (9 am-4 pm)

Leaders: Joe Coleman and Laura McGranaghan  
Members (ANS & LWC) \$34; nonmembers \$48

Full - register for waitlist online.



## New Year's Moonwalk

Saturday, January 3 (6:30-8:30 pm)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Cross your fingers for clear skies as we celebrate the New Year with a brisk walk under the light of the year's first full moon. We'll head upriver on the C&O Canal towpath from Swain's Lock, enjoying the shadows of arching sycamore trees and listening for the calls of owls and winter-active mammals. Distance covered will depend on the weather and conditions underfoot.

## Winter Walks Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)  
 Section A: January 7 - Carderock  
 Section B: January 21 - Widewater  
 Section C: February 4 - Swain's Lock  
 Section D: March 11 - Great Falls  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Each walk: members \$20; nonmembers \$28  
 Entire series \$72/\$100

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

## Natural History of Owls

Thursday, January 8 (7-9:30 pm)  
 Leader: Paul Engman  
 Free, but registration required.

**FREE**



Pam Oves

Local owl populations swell during the winter as resident species are joined by northern migrants. Looking for owls and understanding their specialized adaptations is an exciting winter activity. This illustrated slide lecture at our

Woodend Sanctuary will cover field identification techniques, basic adaptations and natural history of owls, as well as tips on where and how to find owls in the field.

## Winter Birds of the Coast

Saturday, January 10 (9:30 am-5:30 pm)  
 Leader: John Bjerke  
 Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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

## Winter Hikes in the Mountains

A: Sunday, January 11 (full day hike) - Sugarloaf Mountain, MD (5.5 mi)  
 B: Sunday, February 8 (9 am-2 pm) - Bull Run Mountain, VA (3-4 mi)  
 C: Saturday, March 14 (full day hike) - Shenandoah National Park, VA (5.2 mi)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Hike A or C: Members \$34; nonmembers \$48  
 Hike B: Members \$30; nonmembers \$42  
 Entire Series \$84/\$117

Take on two of your New Year's resolutions at once: spend more time exploring nature AND get more exercise by signing up for our hikes in the nearby mountains of our area. We'll search for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills. Hike A covers our nearest monadnock, where we'll scale the fairly steep ¼ mile trail to the summit (1,282 feet), then spend the rest of our time hiking the 5-mile loop Blue Trail. On Hike B, we'll visit Bull Run Mountain in Prince William County and hike to the top of High Point Mountain (1,300 feet), enjoying views of the Virginia Piedmont. On the last hike of our series, we'll follow the Appalachian Trail in the Central Section of Shenandoah National Park, where we'll climb 1.5 miles (1200 ft. ascent) to Mary's Rock (3500 feet). There we'll be rewarded with one of the best panoramic views of the Park. We'll continue climbing up, past the jagged Pinnacles (3750 feet) before our hike ends at the Pinnacles Picnic area. *Note: These hikes are designed to offer a natural history experience for persons who want to move farther and faster than the pace of most ANS field trips. We will stop to observe natural phenomena, but will keep a pace necessary to cover the distance stated. All of these hikes should be considered moderately strenuous to strenuous, with both uphill and downhill hiking over rocky and uneven trails.*



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

## Rocks on the Mall

Sunday, January 11 (1-4 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Many structures that border the National Mall in downtown Washington proudly wear the bedrock of other localities. We will meet at the 7th & Maryland SW entrance to the L'Enfant Plaza Metro station and do a two-mile loop—flat and easy—around the eastern end of the Mall. We will discuss the type, manner of formation and place of origin of the rock in various facades, fountains and walls. Limestone, often with fossils visible, is the most common building stone on the Mall, but we will also see good examples of granite, gneiss, marble and sandstone. To prevent geologic overload, the trip leader will bring a supply of amusing historical anecdotes about the sites we visit. *Note: Our geology walks move at a faster pace than our usual "naturalists' shuffle."*

## Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Winter Walk: Wednesday, January 14 (10 am-Noon)

Spring Walk: Wednesday, April 22 (10 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

## Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill

Sunday, January 18 (3-5:30 pm)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

**FULL**

You'll want to bundle up for this birding trek to the now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail, a familiar birding spot in upper Montgomery County. As afternoon fades to dusk in the open terrain here, we'll search for resident and overwintering species, including Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. Our leader will bring along a scope for distant bird viewing. Our visit to this area which is "closed to the public" is by special permission.

## Walk Among the Giants

A: Saturday, January 24 (9 am-12:30 pm)

B: Sunday, April 12 (8-11:30 am)

C: Saturday, July 25 (7:30-11 am)

D: Sunday, October 25 (8-11:30 am)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

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

Entire series \$88/\$128

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

## Winter Tree ID for Birders

Saturday, January 24 (2-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Free, but registration required.

**FREE**

We're reprising this popular field trip to help birders learn to recognize the field marks of many common trees through their binoculars. The outdoor classroom will be Scott's Run Nature Preserve near McLean, VA, where we'll ID trees in their winter aspect, all the while keeping our eyes and ears open for birds moving amongst them.

## Winter Woods of Prince William Forest Park

Sunday, January 25 (12:30-4 pm)

Leader: Elizabeth Rives

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

With 15,000 acres of forest in various stages of transition, Prince William Forest Park protects the largest Piedmont forest in the National Park Service and the largest green space in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. An arboreal meeting place, the Park features species of trees at their northern- and southern-most limits, as well as representatives from both the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont physiographic provinces. The winter landscape affords visitors an unobstructed view of the rich, diverse ecosystems that exist in the Park, and accentuates many characteristics of woody plants that help with identification in all seasons. On a leisurely 2-3 mile hike over sloping terrain, winter woody plant identification instructor and environmental educator Elizabeth Rives will help participants learn the basics of winter tree identification and relate the vast natural and cultural history of the Park. *Plan on a \$5 per car entrance fee. Carpooling will be encouraged and facilitated.*

## Night Gliders

Saturday, January 31 (5:30-7 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

## Introduction to the Natural History of Mammals

FREE

Thursday, February 5 (7-9 pm)

Leader: Rob Gibbs

Free, but registration required.

Mammals are abundant in most habitats in our region, but since many are small, secretive, or nocturnal, they are rarely seen. Join a wildlife ecologist as he shares his knowledge of local mammals and broadens your understanding of their role in mid-Atlantic ecosystems.

## Baby, It's Cold Outside

Saturday, February 7 (9:30-Noon)

Leader: Cliff Fairweather

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Despite the cold temperatures, nature is still out there waiting to be explored. Pull on a coat and join us for this walk at Long Branch Nature Center in Arlington, VA, where our leader is a staff naturalist. We'll explore the basics of winter ecology and the many strategies organisms from grasses to grackles to gray tree frogs employ for winter survival.

## Dorchester County Waterfront

Sunday, February 15 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

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

## Presidents' Day Hike on the Canal: Widewater to Great Falls Loop

Monday, February 16 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members: \$24; nonmembers \$34

Got the day off? Join us as we hike the Berma Road trail above the Canal from Widewater upriver to Great Falls, where we'll enjoy views from the islands with boardwalks. We'll walk back to our cars at Widewater along the C & O Canal towpath for a total of 4 miles. As we pass through floodplain forests and wetlands, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for winter birds and other active wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills.

## Winter Tree Identification

Saturday, February 21 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: Cris Fleming

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Using the clues of buds, twigs, bark, and fruit, we'll practice identifying trees in winter in this 3/4 day workshop at our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. We'll begin inside with a look at techniques of winter tree identification, take a lunch break, and then move outside to use our new skills to identify many species of woody plants that grow on the Woodend grounds.

## A Year at Boundary Bridge

Saturdays (9 am-2 pm)

Section A: February 28; Section B: April 11

Section C: June 27; Section D: November 7

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Entire series \$102/\$143

Join the author of [\*A Year in Rock Creek Park—the Wild, Wooded Heart of Washington, DC\*](#) for our 9th year of hikes in one of D.C.'s most beautiful wild areas. Celebrating the park's 125th birthday, we'll start at Boundary Bridge and follow the same 2.5 mile loop trail each season, admiring and IDing the rich plant life along a scenic stretch of Rock Creek. We'll also see and hear many species of birds, butterflies, and amphibians. On our winter walk, an ideal time to admire the Park's topography, we'll look and listen for winter flocks and identify many species of woody plants. In April, we'll witness the spring magic of Rock Creek's myriad wildflowers. As summer arrives in the Park, we'll hope for a glimpse of a kingfisher as we look for ferns and early seasonal wildflowers such as enchanter's nightshade. Autumn is glorious in Rock Creek Park, and we'll conclude our series with a walk through colorful oaks, maples, and ashes, searching for the flowers of an early witch hazel in bloom. *Our hike will be on trails with moderate uphill and downhill walking. An ANS/Rock Creek Conservancy Partnership.*

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Dec 6	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30	Feb 20	11 am	Nature Preschool Open House		10
"	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill A	Y	12	Feb 21	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		10
"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8	"	10 am	Winter Tree Identification	Y	15
"	10 am	Holiday Eco Crafts	Y	8	Feb 22	8 am	Riley's Lock bird walk		23
"	"	Peirce Mill to Pulpit Rock walk	Y	18	Feb 23	7 pm	Winter Bird Life begins	Y	24
"	6 pm	Full Moon Night Hike & Camp Fire at Rust	Y	11	Feb 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
Dec 7	9 am	Birding the Shenandoah	Y	12	"	7 pm	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22
Dec 11	7 pm	Author Event - Melanie Choukas-Bradley		32	Feb 26	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22
Dec 13	8 am	Huntley Meadows bird walk		23	Feb 28	9 am	A Year at Boundary Bridge A	Y	15
Dec 17	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	Mar 1	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill D	Y	12
Jan 3	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30	"	1 pm	Intro to WQM Field Workshop		22
"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8	Mar 3	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
"	6:30 pm	New Year's Moonwalk	Y	13	Mar 7	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30
Jan 4	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill B	Y	12	"	8:30 am	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 7	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal A	Y	13	"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8
Jan 8	7 pm	Natural History of Owls		13	"	9:30 am	Tour the Washington Aqueduct		18
Jan 9	10 am	Fresh Air Kids starts at Rust	Y	11	"	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	Y	18
Jan 10	9:30 am	Winter Birds of the Coast	Y	13	Mar 8	8 am	Late Winter Birding Trek in Prince William	Y	18
"	10 am	National Arboretum bird walk		23	Mar 9	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 11	full day	Winter Hike in the Mountain A	Y	13	Mar 10	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
"	1 pm	Rocks on the Mall	Y	14	Mar 11	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal D	Y	13
Jan 13	6 pm	Winter Woody Plant ID starts	Y	24	Mar 12	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
Jan 14	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	14	"	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 18	3 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	14	Mar 14	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30
Jan 19	8:30 am	School's Out Nature Camp at Rust	Y	11	"	"	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23
Jan 20	8:30 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	9	"	full day	Winter Hike in the Mountain C	Y	13
"	7 pm	Human Ecology begins	Y	24	Mar 17	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jan 20	7:30 pm	Owls begins	Y	24	Mar 19	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream		22
Jan 21	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal B	Y	13	"	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	18
"	6:30 pm	Land-Use Principles begins	Y	25	Mar 21	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30
"	7 pm	American Nature Literature begins	Y	25	Mar 22	10 am	Botanical Gems: Northwest Branch Park	Y	18
Jan 22	6 pm	Geology begins	Y	25	Mar 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	7 pm	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22	Mar 27	8:30 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	9
Jan 24	9 am	Walk Among the Giants A	Y	14	Mar 28	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30
"	2 pm	Winter Tree ID for Birders		14	Mar 29	9:30 am	Budbreak at Carderock	Y	18
Jan 25	8 am	Pscataway National Park bird walk		23	"	10 am	Geology at the National Zoo	Y	19
"	12:30 pm	Winter Woods of Prince William Forest	Y	14					
Jan 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23					
Jan 29	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22					
Jan 31	5:30 pm	Night Gliders	Y	15					
Feb 4	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal C	Y	13					
Feb 5	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22					
"	"	Intro to the Natural History of Mammals		15					
Feb 7	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		30					
"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8					
"	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		10					
"	"	Baby It's Cold Outside	Y	15					
Feb 8	9 am	Winter Hike in the Mountain B	Y	13					
Feb 12	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22					
Feb 14	7:30 am	Great Falls River Trail, MD bird walk		23					
Feb 15	full day	Dorchester County Waterfront	Y	15					
Feb 16	10 am	Presidents' Day Hike on the Canal	Y	15					
Feb 19	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22					

Y = Fee-based program

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

## Tour the Washington Aqueduct

Saturday, March 7 (8:30-10:30 am)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick & US Army Corps of Engineers staff  
Free, but registration required.

**SPECIAL  
CONSERVATION  
WALK**

The Washington Aqueduct produces drinking water for approximately 1 million citizens living, working, or visiting the District of Columbia, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church and its service area. Federally owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers since the 1860s, this public water supply agency produces an average of 180 million gallons per day. Our tour will focus on the water treatment process at the Delcarlia facility and conformance with the Safe Drinking Water Act - the federal law that ensures the quality of Americans' drinking water. Limited to 15.

## Woodcock Watch

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason  
Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

## Late Winter Birding Trek in Prince William County

Sunday, March 8 (8 am-3 pm)

Leader: Paul Pisano  
Members \$34; nonmembers \$46



Red-tailed hawk/EE photo

With winter winding down, we'll bundle up for one last foray to wetlands and woodlands in Prince William County, VA in search

of lingering waterfowl, resident birds, and some of the first returning migrants. We'll plan to spend the first half of our day at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge near Woodbridge, VA before heading downriver to our final destination at Leesylvania State Park along the Potomac River.

## Beginning Birding

Thursday, March 19 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, March 21 (8 am-2 pm)  
Leader: Mark England  
Members \$46; nonmembers \$64  
Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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.

## Botanical Gems in Montgomery County: Northwest Branch Park

Sunday, March 22 (10 am-1:30 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann  
Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

In 1904, after a horseback ride in the stream valley of Northwest Branch, Theodore Roosevelt declared that it was "a beautiful gorge, deep and narrow, with great boulders and even cliffs. Excepting Great Falls, it is the most beautiful place around here." Much of this area today is preserved as Montgomery County parkland, and it feels surprisingly wild despite the urbanization surrounding it. The county's forest ecologist will lead this hike of 2.5-3.5 miles, focusing on plant identification and ecology as we search for the earliest signs of Spring. *Our trail will be a natural surface path, with some uphill/downhill and some limited rock scrambling.*

## Budbreak at Carderock

Sunday, March 29 (9:30 am-1:30 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Elizabeth Rives  
Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

During spring in Washington, all eyes seem to be on the colorful wildflowers and showy migrating birds. But one of the greatest miracles of spring, the bursting buds of native trees and shrubs, is often overlooked. Join Natural History Field Studies woody plant ID teachers Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Elizabeth Rives for a walk devoted to the identification and admiration of native trees and shrubs as their buds break and their leaves and flowers start to emerge! The 2-3 mile hike will mostly follow the C&O canal towpath, but we will venture down to the Potomac River on Section B of the Billy Goat Trail for a portion of the hike. *This stretch involves some scrambling over rocks, a few steep sections, and some up and down, but we will move at a slow pace.*



## Geology at the National Zoo

Sunday, March 29 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: April 1 - Carderock

Section B: April 15 - Widewater

Section C: April 29 - Swain's Lock

Section D: May 6 - Riley's Lock

Section E: May 20 - Violettes Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$85/\$119

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

## Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch

Saturday, April 4 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Neal Fitzpatrick

Free, but registration required.

**SPECIAL  
CONSERVATION  
WALK**

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 park and discuss long-term stormwater impacts and needed infrastructure rehabilitation. 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 dept. have been invited to join us. Participants can return to Tenley on a Wisconsin Avenue Metrobus or make plans for lunch in Georgetown.

## Spring in the Parks

Saturdays (8 am-12:30 pm)

A: April 4 - Watkins Regional Park, MD

B: April 25 - Mason Neck NWR, VA

C: May 16 - Rock Creek Park, DC

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$65; nonmembers \$82

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 on natural surface trails, with some uphill and downhill, in a search for spring wildflowers and seasonal wildlife activity, including birds, butterflies, and amphibians. Our first destination visits rich woodland with towering trees near Largo, MD. On our next expedition, we'll explore bottomland forest near Occoquan, Va. As the pulse of spring change slows down and the woods stand green, we'll explore the surprisingly wild urban forest of Rock Creek Park in the District.

## Introduction to Wildflower ID

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

Saturday, April 11 (3/4 day field trip)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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.*

### Love Our Adult Nature Outings?

Celebrate a special occasion by giving a friend or family member a customized ANS nature walk.

For details, contact Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason at [stephanie.mason@anshome.org](mailto:stephanie.mason@anshome.org).



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

## Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac River Gorge

Fridays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Walk A: April 10 - Carderock, MD

Walk B: April 17 - Turkey Run Park, VA

Walk C: April 24 - Great Falls, MD

Leader: Cris Fleming

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$54/\$76

The display of spring wildflowers in the Washington area is especially rich in the varied habitats along the Potomac River Gorge. From Virginia bluebells blanketing the bottomlands to the rare Coville's phacelia on the slopes and wild columbine on rock outcrops, different parks of the Gorge present a grand show. Join us for one or more of these visits to three nearby natural areas to find and identify local wildflowers and to observe the seasonal progression of blooms. *Our explorations will involve some steep, uneven, rocky, and/or muddy terrain, and a rocky stream crossing at Turkey Run, but we will proceed at a slow pace.*

## Geology of Harpers Ferry

Saturday, April 11 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

The town of Harpers Ferry sits astride the junction of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, in the shadow of a spectacular water gap. The combined streams slice through the Blue Ridge, exposing ancient rocks that formed from coastal plain deposits along the edge of an earlier, smaller version of North America. We will walk 5-6 miles along the towpath of the C&O Canal, upstream from the railroad bridge and back. Occasionally, we'll stop to look at local stones incorporated into the canal wall or step down to the river and examine rock exposures kept fresh by the flowing water. *The pace set and distance covered on these geology trips is typically faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."*

## Introduction to the Geology of the Mid-Atlantic

Thursday, April 16 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Free, but registration required.

**FREE**

Join Joe Marx, Natural History Field Studies Geology teacher and ANS field trip leader, for a rockin' lecture at our Woodend Sanctuary. From uplift to continental drift, from the Coastal Plain to the Allegheny Plateau, Joe will be our tour leader for the long (think millions of years) trip through the geologic events that shaped the landscape around us.

## Evening on the Canal

Saturday, April 18 (6:45-8:45 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Early spring evenings can be alive with wildlife as you'll discover on this stroll from Swain's 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.

## Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

A. Saturday, April 18 – Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, MD (Mike Bowen)

B. Sunday, April 26 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Mark England)

C. Sunday, May 3 – Glover-Archbold Park, DC (John Bjerke)

D. Saturday, May 9 – Riverbend Park, VA (Mike Bowen)

E. Sunday, May 17 – Pennyfield Lock, MD (John Bjerke)

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series members \$102; nonmembers \$145

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 migration can sometimes be overwhelming. On each walk we'll search for songbirds by sight and sound. We'll discuss the arrival sequence of spring migrants, practice spotting them in the forest, and learn the songs of many species.

## Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Little Bennett Park

Sunday, April 19 (9:30 am-1 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

At 3,700 acres, Little Bennett Regional Park near Clarksburg, MD, is the park in Montgomery County where you can still get lost. Its richness in plant diversity is due to its many habitats, including mature forest, shrub thicket, meadow, stream valley, and riparian wetlands. Our spring hike with the county's forest ecologist will cross a wet meadow, head up the Allegheny Mound Builder (ants) Trail, explore an oak-hickory woods, and visit other areas. *Expect some uphill and downhill on our 3-4 mile hike.*

## Spring Butterflies of Unique Southern Maryland Habitats

Sunday, April 19 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

The sandy, acidic woodlands of coastal plain habitats in Calvert and Anne Arundel Counties of Maryland support a variety of spring butterflies which are infrequently encountered in the close-in, metro area. Under the guidance of butterfly expert Dick Smith and our Senior Naturalist, participants will spend the day searching holly and pine forests, as well as sand barrens, for Henry's, Brown, and Pine Elfins; Juniper and Red-banded Hairstreaks; American Coppers; Holly Azures; and Falcate Orangetips, as well as more familiar species. Areas visited will include Calvert Cliffs State Park and Glendening Nature Preserve.

## River Herring Return to Rock Creek

Saturday, April 25 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman

Free, but registration required.

Tom Horton describes the annual Rock Creek migration of 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 four-hour walk, we hope to view the spawning run and discuss opportunities for restoring fish migration to Rock Creek. We will visit the fish ladder construction site at Peirce Mill. Meet at the Cleveland Park Metro Station and end at the Woodley Park/National Zoo/Adams Morgan Station. 18th annual walk!

**SPECIAL  
CONSERVATION  
WALK**

## The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, May 2 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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, they must race to complete their flowering and fruiting cycles before the brief window of spring sunlight gets shut out by the unfolding forest canopy. NHFS Spring Flower instructor Sujata Roy will spill some of their secrets in an exploration along the C&O Canal at Great Falls, MD.

## Springtime in West Virginia

Monday, May 4 (8 am) -Tuesday, May 5 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$110; nonmembers \$154

Visit our website for a complete description.

## The Green Quill Club

By Rick Borchelt, ANS Member

Nature writing is widely considered a uniquely American contribution to the world of literature, and some of the most evocative and essential writing of the 19th and 20th centuries belong to this genre



of essays, poetry, and journalism. Nature writing, when it is done well, is a happy admixture of scientific information and artistic/literary expression; it has the power to inform policy, motivate environmental action, and inspire appreciation for and conservation of wilderness and wildlife.

Washington has famously been home to many of the country's iconic nature writers. Such luminaries in the craft who called the DC area home for all or part of their writing careers include John Burroughs (and his hiking and bird-watching colleague, Walt Whitman), Roger Tory Peterson, Rachel Carson, Louis Halle and Florence Merriam Bailey. I'd like to recreate here at ANS a community of naturalists who are passionate about sharing their love of nature with others through the written or spoken word.

In consultation with ANS leadership, I'm exploring ways to build a solid commitment to nature writing back into the suite of ANS activities and programs, from expanding our author series into a formal series, to hosting visiting nature writers for master classes and discussions of the craft of nature writing, to formal and informal reading and discussion programs, to regular workshops on writing about nature. And if there is enough interest, I'd like to develop a blog or other online platform for nature writing by ANS members and friends in the mid-Atlantic.

This will be volunteer-led, and we'll need your support and interest to initiate and sustain this new initiative. I'm looking for other like-minded ANS members to form a Green Quill Club and move this concept forward. Are you interested in reading and writing about nature, or hearing from those who do? Would you take part in some or all of these proposed programs, either formally or informally? What would you be most interested in participating in or learning more about?

Nature writing is born out of love, respect, and awe. It finds its subject during days of close observation of the natural world. It finds its voice in the relationship with nature developed during those days. That's precisely why ANS is the right place to rebuild the area's nature writing community. We're devoted to observing and exploring nature, and to strengthening our relationship with it. It is no coincidence Peterson and Carson were themselves members of the ANS Board in their time. Drop me a line at [rborchelt@gmail.com](mailto:rborchelt@gmail.com) and let me know if you'd like to be part of this exciting new way to deepen our appreciation of nature and natural history.

# Water Quality Monitoring

Classes are for anyone who would like to become a volunteer stream monitor or who simply has an interest in learning about life in our streams. Classes are free to ANS members. **To register, mail or fax in a form found at [www.anshome.org](http://www.anshome.org).** If you are an ANS member simply email the classes you want to register for to [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org). To learn more about becoming a monitor, contact Cathy Wiss at [cathy.wiss@anshome.org](mailto:cathy.wiss@anshome.org) or call 301-652-9188 x19.

## Introduction to Water Quality Monitoring



Find out about monitoring with ANS! One classroom session and the field workshop are recommended for those interested in becoming monitors.

**Classroom Sessions** (both sections A & B cover the same material)

**Section A: Thursday, January 22 (7-9 pm)**

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

**Section B: Wednesday, February 25 (7-9 pm)**

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

**Fee \$12, waived for members and students earning SSL credit**

In the classroom, we will explore how benthic macroinvertebrates – bottom-dwelling boneless creatures – help us assess the health of local streams and learn how to identify these organisms to the taxonomic level of order by examining preserved specimens. Registration required.

### Field Workshop

**Section C: Sunday, March 1 (1-4 pm) site TBA**

**Fee \$12, waived for members and students earning SSL credit**

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

## Aquatic Insect Family ID



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

**Section A: Thursday, January 29 - Caddisflies**

**Section B: Thursday, February 5 - Beetles & Megaloptera**

**Section C: Thursday, February 12 - Dragonflies, Damselflies & True Flies**

**Section D: Thursday, February 19 - Mayflies**

**Section E: Thursday, February 26 - Stoneflies & Review**

**Fee \$12 for each session, waived for members and students earning SSL credit**

Deepen your benthic macroinvertebrate identification skills to the taxonomic level of family through this series of five classes. Identification of these organisms to family level greatly enhances the water quality assessment power of our data and gives us a better reading of aquatic insect diversity. Registration required.

## Macroinvertebrate ID Review & Quiz



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

**Section A: Saturday, March 7 (9:30 am-noon)**

**Section B: Monday, March 9 (6:30-9 pm)**

**Section C: Thursday, March 12 (6:30-9 pm)**

**No fee**

Time to separate the beetles from the true flies! Those who wish to be certified to identify macroinvertebrates in the field 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. Registration required.

## How to Read Your Stream



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

**Thursday, March 19 (7-9:30 pm)**

**Fee \$12, waived for members and students earning SSL credit**

Learn about stream characteristics and dynamics. Find out how land use affects our streams. We will practice evaluating stream conditions using photographs and the habitat assessment 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. Registration required.



*Longtime member Jack Schultz was recognized for his many years of volunteer service at ANS. For a wrapup of the Annual Meeting see page 7.*

Ikona Photography

# Free Birding Trips December-March

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

## DECEMBER

Saturday, December 13

Huntley Meadows, Fairfax County, VA

Half day. Wintering waterfowl and other winter residents, Bald Eagles. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot. **Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Stephen Jones at 301-320-3518.

Wednesday, December 17

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

Half day. Songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and other raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am inside refuge at central parking lot. **Make reservation** (6-adult limit) with leader Jim Waggener, 703-567-3555.

## JANUARY

Saturday, January 10

National Arboretum, Washington, DC

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

Sunday, January 25

Potomac River/PG County: Piscataway National Park

Half day. Close-up to distant viewing of waterfowl at Piscataway Park, National Colonial Farm, Hard Bargain Farm. Also land birds, raptors. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Burger King in Food Lion shopping center, 15785 Livingston Rd (MD 373), Accokeek, MD 20607. Dress warmly with wind protection gear. Joint trip with SoMDAudubon. **Make reservation** with leader Carol Gheblian, 301-753-6754 or gheblian@comcast.net. Mike Callahan will co-lead.

Wednesday, January 28

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 17 listing for details.

## FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 14

Great Falls River Trail, MD

Half day. Wintering waterfowl, possible Bald Eagle on nest, other winter residents. Leader will have scope but bring your own if you have one. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center (MD side). Enter park from entrance road at junction of Falls Road and McArthur Blvd. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with leader Bob Cantilli, rcantilli@gmail.com or 301-983-3470; call 301-728-0525 (cell) for last-minute info or cancellations.

Sunday, February 22

Riley's Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery County, MD

Half day. Winter residents, possible raptors and wintering ducks. Leaders will have scope for a view from the bridge at Riley's. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Riley's Lock. **Make reservation** with leaders Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton, lpshannon@gmail.com.

Wednesday, February 25

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 17 listing for details.

## MARCH

Tuesdays, March 3, 10, and 17 and Thursday, March 12

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

Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. **Meet time/place:** promptly at 5 pm at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." After checking out the river, we will proceed to Hughes Hollow. Highlights here will include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight, and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. **Reservations not required** – all are welcome. For more info, call the leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036 (cell).

Saturday, March 14

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 by park hdqtrs. Wear mud-conditions footgear. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with John Bjerke, 240-401-1643 or johnbjerke1@mac.com.

Wednesday, March 25

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 17 listing for details.



## Christmas Bird Counts

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

- Sunday, December 14 (Seneca, MD and VA)
- Saturday, December 20 (Washington, DC)
- Saturday, December 27 (Central Loudoun, VA)
- Sunday, December 28 (Sugarloaf Mountain, MD)

# 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/NHFS.

## Winter Bird Life

NATH 7163E, 1.5 CEUs

Class dates/time: Mondays, February 23-March 16, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: March 7 and 21 (all day). Both trips required for course completion.

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$259

Instructor: Don Messersmith



EE photo

Woodland birds are easy to sight in winter when leaves are off deciduous trees, and waterfowl are numerous and easy to locate. Learn about avian winter survival strategies, how to attract

overwintering birds, where to look for birds in winter, and the essential connection between waterfowl and the Chesapeake Bay. Two field trips will provide opportunities to identify and study winter birds and their behavior.

## Winter Woody Plant Identification

NATH 7146E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Tuesdays, January 13-March 10, 6-8:15 pm

Field Trip dates: January 24, February 7, and February 28, with makeup date of March 7

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

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Elizabeth Rives

Winter unmasks nature, revealing our local woody plants in their most skeletal form. Students will learn to identify trees and shrubs by studying the "bare bones" of plants – branching structure, bark, buds, and leaf scars. Classroom lessons and three field trips will help students develop observational skills and use clues such as persistent and fallen fruits and leaves, aromatic twigs, and habitat to identify trees in the winter landscape.

## Owls

NATH 7165E, 1.5 CEUs

Class dates/time: Tuesdays, January 20-February 10, 7:30-9:30 pm

Field Trip dates: January 31 and February 7, afternoons

Location: Hidden Oaks Nature Center, VA

Tuition: \$259

Instructor: Leon Nawojchik

Winter is an excellent time to study owls: early sunsets and the absence of leaves on the trees make it convenient to locate these fascinating birds in the field. Learn about the ecology of common eastern owls and field identification, structural and behavioral adaptations, migratory and nesting habits, structural and behavioral adaptations, and position in the food chain, as well as other, rarer, owl species and myths and legends.

## Human Ecology

NATH 8280E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Tuesdays, January 20-March 24, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: February 7 and March 7

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Jane Huff

Although existing in habitats of their own design, humans cannot escape the biological and physical constraints on energy use, food production, population and interactions with other species. Applying ecological principles, students examine the interactions of the human population, the use of renewable and non-renewable resources and pollution problems and solutions. Course discussions focus on the ecological, economic and political considerations of dealing with environmental problems in the new century. Recommended prior course: Introduction to Ecology (NATH1160E), or equivalent.



# Winter Courses January-March

## American Nature Literature

NATH 8248E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Wednesdays, January 21-March 25, 7-9:30 pm

Field Trip date: March 21

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Kent Minichiello

Discover the beauty and diversity of America's natural heritage through the writings of naturalists, explorers, essayists, novelists, and poets. Learn about major writers and their intellectual and social contexts from lectures, films, and annotated bibliographies. Select, read, and report on works of particular interest. Study primary sources for two special foci of the class: writings about the mid-Atlantic region and women nature writers. There will be one Saturday morning field trip (11:30 a.m.) to the Museum of American Art.

## Land-Use Principles

NATH 8255E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Wednesdays, January 21-March 25, 6:30-8:45 pm

Field Trip dates: February 7 and March 7

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Examine the social, economic, ecological, legal and physical principles that govern land use. Apply a variety of land-use principles to land-resource use and conservation by planning the use of an actual site. Additional examples of land-use problems in the United States are considered. Field trips visit several sites to study typical land uses and land-use problems. There will be no class on February 25.

## Geology

NATH 1125, 2 credits

Class dates/time: Thursdays, January 22-March 26, 6-9 pm

Field Trip dates: March 1 and March 14

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

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Joe Marx

We may not have the Rockies in our back yard, but we have the roots of mountains that were as high as the Alps. Although local earthquakes are rare now, this area broke in two twice and oceans flowed in. Central Atlantic geology tells a story as fascinating as any place on the planet. Course lectures introduce the landscapes, subsurface structures and geologic history of our region. Two field trips emphasize the recognition of local landforms and of the geological processes that created them. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed.

*Find details on Spring NHFS classes, starting in April, at ANShome.org/NHFS*

## Intro to Ornithology

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Gemma Radko

## Reptiles and Amphibians

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Rachel Gauza

## Biodiversity (tentative)

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Joel Cohen

## Biology for Naturalists

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jane Huff

## The Living Soil

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

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

## Freshwater Ecosystems

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jai Cole

## Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

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

Registration may be completed:

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

## BOOKSHOP OPEN!

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



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

## Central Florida: Wetlands Teeming with Life

January 13–20, 2015

Leaders: Mark Garland and Tom & Judy Gire

The wetlands and associated upland habitats between Orlando and the Atlantic coast are loaded with birds and other wildlife throughout the winter months. While this part of Florida can be chilly in mid-winter, freezing temperatures are very rare and most days are pleasant and dry. Freshwater marshes, wooded swamps, and open lakes are home to alligators, Limpkin, Snail Kite, and a great variety of herons and egrets. Habitats near the Atlantic coast support manatees, Roseate Spoonbills, huge flocks of wintering waterfowl, and lots of other wildlife. As we search for birds and other wildlife we'll also identify some of the more conspicuous plants and discuss Florida's ecology and conservation concerns. Cost of the trip is \$1995, double occupancy from Orlando, for members of ANS.

## Costa Rica: Celebrating Tropical Biodiversity

February 14–27, 2015

Optional Extension to March 2

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos "Charlie" Gómez

Costa Rica has long been considered one of the world's top ecotourism destinations. On our 26 years of trips to this exceptionally diverse little Central American country, we always visit several different habitats in our search for birds, plants, and all manner of wildlife. Lessons on tropical ecology and conservation engage us every day. Our upcoming trip explores Caribbean lowland rain forest, cool mountain highlands, the two largest freshwater wetlands in the country, and tropical dry forest. An optional extension to March 1 visits habitats in the country's highest mountain range, the Talamanca. Expect to see many hummingbirds, tanagers, trogons, parrots, and other tropical birds, along with monkeys, sloths, iguanas, crocodiles, and a mind-numbing variety of tropical plants. Members' cost for the basic trip is \$3750, double occupancy from San Jose. Limited to 12 participants. Full - call to be added to waitlist.

**FULL**

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

## Panama: The Wild, Remote Forests of Darién

April 18–25, 2015

Leader: Carlos Bethancourt

Darién, the easternmost province of Panama, is home to the wildest and most diverse forests of Central America. Ecosystems of South America and Central America mingle here. Creatures that don't mix well with humans can still be found in Darién, including Harpy Eagle and Jaguar. This region used to be very challenging to visit, but the folks who manage the Canopy Tower (and who hosted two very happy ANS groups in 2013) have just opened a small lodge called the "Canopy Camp." This week-long trip is based at the Canopy Camp, heading out into different habitats each day to find birds and other wildlife in this spectacular rainforest environment. Cost for ANS members is \$3200, double occupancy from Panama City, which includes all meals.



Harpy Eagle

## Coming in 2016

Planning has begun for these trips, let us know if you'd like to receive itineraries and registration packets as soon as they become available for any or all: **Costa Rica, Scotland, Arizona, and Africa.**

## Pack Your Travel Protection!

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

## Scotland: Nature of Highlands and Islands

**FULL**

July 7-19, 2015

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick, Scott O'Hara, & Aigas Rangers

The Aigas Field Centre is located in a quiet glen west of Inverness, Scotland. The Lister-Kaye family has run environmental education programs based from the buildings and grounds of an old estate here for almost 40 years. A full week at Aigas is the centerpiece of this new travel program. Stay in cottages tucked into the estate's arboretum, some beneath Giant Sequoia trees planted here 150 years ago, and take meals in the Great Hall of the Manor House. Head out on field trips each day, some to the east coast, some to the west, and some to the moors, glens, and straths in the middle of the Scottish Highlands. Begin the explorations with a three-night stay at Islay, one of the Inner Hebrides islands, a place rich with wildlife of the wild coast, broad bogs, and pastoral farm country. Expect to see a great variety of birds, wildflowers, mammals, butterflies, and more, while learning about conservation, history, and culture of Scotland. Cost for ANS members is \$4900, double occupancy from Glasgow, which includes almost all meals. Full - call to be added to waitlist.

## Yellowstone: Where the Wild Things Roam

July 9-19, 2015

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Mark England

Yellowstone is truly one of the world's greatest natural areas, America's first National Park and honored by the United Nations as a World Heritage Site. At over 2 million acres, Yellowstone National Park encompasses a vast and diverse wilderness. Enjoy the Park's geysers and other geothermal features while searching for birds, mammals, and other wildlife. With luck we could see wolves, bears, moose, elk, bison, and other big mammals. We are sure to see many birds, butterflies, wildflowers, and more. The itinerary includes visits to neighboring Grand Teton National Park and to the high Beartooth Plateau, part of the Shoshone National Forest. Cost is \$2995, double occupancy from Jackson, WY, for ANS members.

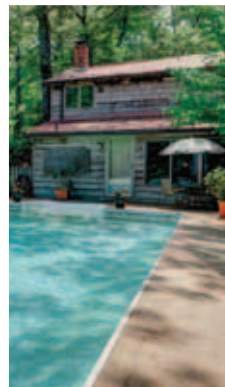


Mark S. Garland

## Birder's Paradise

See scarlet tanagers, endangered warblers and rose breasted grosbeaks from the deck of this spacious 3BR 3BA mountain home on 11 wooded acres in W. Virginia. The house includes a spacious living room, dining room, and bright kitchen, with a large family room and wood shop in the basement. Fully equipped and furnished incl. wood stove, W/D, and DW. 4Wdrive Jeep if desired.

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## Current Volunteer Opportunities

### Habitat Stewards

Help us maintain and restore our beloved Woodend Sanctuary, while working outside with great people. Groups meet once or twice monthly to pull invasive plants, maintain trails, tackle soil erosion, etc.

### Content Creators

Are you a writer, blogger or tweeter? Help tell the ANS story, out in the community in coordination with our marketing and communications staff.

### Role Models

The environmental education efforts of ANS extend far beyond the boundaries of Woodend. Help our GreenKids staff inspire children at area schools through our salad science and stream science programs.

For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, visit [anshome.org/volunteer](http://anshome.org/volunteer).



## Audubon Naturalist Birdseed Sale December 1-31

[anshome.org/shop](http://anshome.org/shop)

## Support ANS – Monthly!

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



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK

## Birder's Private Sanctuary – Eastern Shore



3026 Bennett Point Rd, Queenstown MD  
(about 1 ½ hrs from DC)

Offer price: \$1,259,000

For appointment contact Jeff: 202 744 9931



5.46 acre 80-year old forest and meadow with 453' waterfront on 10-square-mile Eastern Bay, great seclusion, native plant habitats designed to be attractive to birds and beneficial insects. Bay-Wise certified property invites all creatures great and small – Bluebirds in “Peterson” boxes in the spring; eagles to brown creepers in the summer, Snow Geese to Buffleheads in the winter – the migration is right outside the windows of your new home! This compound of four contemporary structures sits lightly on the land and is near to medical, golf, shopping, and provides every modern comfort sensitively: large home office; large woodworking shop; indoor exercise pool; much more. Adjacent 5 acre parcel in Maryland Forest Management Plan gives added privacy for \$325,000.

## The Bat Brigade at Woodend

By Cathy Grubman

How do bats use sound to find their food? Where do they live when they aren't hunting for food? What species are here in the Mid-Atlantic?

These are some of the questions researcher Shannon Pederson hoped to answer—with the help of ANS and students from the University of Maryland.

Pederson, an Associate Wildlife Biologist @ working on her PhD at the University of Maryland, and her undergraduate students installed three microphones in two meadows at Woodend this fall. In an effort to determine whether the restored meadow—at the Jones Mill Road entrance—has an influence on bat activity and species composition, they compared the results to those from an established meadow—near Brierly Road. The research segment began in September 2014 and ended in November, when the bats began to hibernate for the winter.

The researchers also sought information like what time of day are the bats most active and how they gather their food.

“Bats need a lot of energy to find food using a specific echolocation call—called ‘feed buzz’—and they are constantly moving and darting and searching for that food,” Pederson said. “They use sound to find insects; they are sensing size, shape, texture, movement, any detail to find insects at night.”

To help bats locate their prey in the dark, most bat species have developed a navigation system called echolocation, which is akin to shouting into a canyon and hearing your own voice come back an instant later.

According to the Organization for Bat Conservation, one insect-eating bat consumes 2,000-6,000 insects each night. This is important for insect control, especially mosquitoes. Bats are also the only mammals that fly—the bat wing structure is very similar to the human hand. There are more than 1,200 different species of bats in the world. The most common species of bats coming to the ANS meadows are big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*).

“My hypothesis is that they initially come here for the insects and water but end up nesting in people's houses or attics,” noted Pederson. “We are also looking at whether the bats are permanent residents or simply passing through and will come back next summer.”



Cathy Grubman



Shannon Pederson with students at ANS's Woodend Nature Sanctuary this October.

29

### WTOP-FM's Kate Ryan Gets in on the Bat Brigade!

Learn more by checking out these stories:

- “The non-scary facts about bats,” October 31, 2014
- “Why bats are being spied on in a local meadow,” September 28, 2014

### We Want to Hear From You Take the Woodend Survey

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/ANSWoodend](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ANSWoodend)

Your feedback will be help set us on a vision for the future of Woodend as a flagship nature destination for interpretation, habitat restoration and environmental best practices.

### Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Nationalist Society 75493** in the 2014 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



## Join the Nest: Beginner Bird Walks

By Cathy Grubman

I wasn't sure what to expect, only that it was pretty early in the morning for a weekend outing. But then that's what birdwatchers do...get up at the crack of dawn to see what's flying around. Rain or shine, warm or cool, fall or spring, the birders are out there.

Today, I was joined by 14 other enthusiasts at ANS's Free Beginner Bird Walk, which meets Saturdays, 8:00 am, Woodend Sanctuary. We ranged in age from about 25 to 75; there was one baby in the group who spent the entire class snuggled at her dad's chest. Some of the participants lived nearby; others, like Barbara, came from Montgomery Village. Nina and Hampton knew about the class because they often ride by Woodend on their bikes. Beth from Bethesda found out about it from a realtor's magazine; she has birdfeeders in her yard and wanted to know more about local birds. Jenny, a member of ANS, has been coming on and off for three years.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in 2011 there were 47 million birdwatchers 16 years or older in the United States—about 20 percent of the population. To be counted as a birder, an individual must have either taken a trip one mile or more from home for the primary purpose of observing birds or tried to identify birds around the home, known as backyard birding.

The ANS Bird Walk lasted about an hour. Led by long-time volunteer John Williams, who is originally from Haverford, England, we walked slowly and carefully along Woodend's trails. We stopped. We looked. We listened.

Finding a bird took patience; observation started with the naked eye. Once the bird was sighted, we held our gaze steady and lifted the binoculars to our eyes without flinching. And hoped the bird didn't fly away. Birding can also be done by ear. John quickly identified a bird's call—the Blue Jay, its call is a jeering "jaay-jaay." Others in the group added to the conversation: the experienced birders explained the difference between a Blue Jay and a Bluebird. Blue Jays are bigger and more aggressive; Bluebirds are smaller like a Chickadee.

Then, it seemed like everything stopped. For 15 minutes, there were no birds, no bird sounds, only the chirping of crickets and a lawn mower in the distance. Was there a predator? Was a rainstorm coming and that's why the birds were hiding? No, said John, it's just one of those things. Nature is unpredictable. He called it a "black" moment. But not to worry. We will see more birds.

Our crowd hiked on—up the hill and into the field behind the mansion—and suddenly, there they were. Look! On the branch of the magnolia tree. Low in the juniper bush. Up on the roof of the house. Red Cardinals, noisy Nuthatches, black Crows, House Sparrows, gray Catbirds, and—our most coveted bird of the day—a black-and-white Downy Woodpecker. We learned he was a male, identifiable by the red patch on the back of his head. But, I discovered later, this was just the tip of the iceberg. Here in Maryland, 446 bird species have been recorded, according to the Maryland Ornithological Society.

It was exciting to spot a bird and add him to my new life list. But even more satisfying was the opportunity to observe his beauty, especially within his natural habitat.



Photos by Chan Chao


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

Winter schedule: December 6, January 3, February 7. Weekly walks resume in March. Meet at the Audubon Sanctuary Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. No registration required.



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

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## Rent Woodend Sanctuary

rebecca.robinson@anshome.org  
 anshome.org/rentals

## 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. To register for any School's Out Nature Camp or Water Quality Program, fill out the registration form found on our website and mail or fax it in. 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 mailed or emailed 1-2 weeks before the scheduled program. See the yellow box below for programs that have online registration.

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 voucher on future programs (to be used within one year of the date of issue). The credit voucher will be issued less a \$5 administrative fee (we do not keep track of credits).
- If the program is cancelled by ANS, you will receive a full refund.
- 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.

## Looking for the Registration Form?

Find the ANS Environmental Education Program Registration Form online under "Quick Links" at anshome.org.

Just a reminder, you can now register online for all of our Adult Forays, School Programs, Audubon Nature Preschool, Birthday Parties and Summer Camps!

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## A YEAR IN ROCK CREEK PARK; THE WILD, WOODED HEART OF WASHINGTON, DC

**Thursday, December 11 (7-9 pm)**  
**Reception from 7-7:30 pm**

Join author **Melanie Choukas-Bradley** and photographer **Susan Austin Roth** for a journey through the seasons in Rock Creek Park. The author and photographer of [A Year in Rock Creek Park: the Wild, Wooded Heart of Washington, DC](#) will impart fascinating information about Washington, DC's internationally renowned urban park through



Book cover photo by Susan Austin Roth

readings and photographs from their new book. Melanie has been leading seasonal forays in Rock Creek Park for ANS since 2007, and her first four walks in the series "A Year at Boundary Bridge" are recounted in the book. Melanie and Susan will be available to sign books before and after their presentation.

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One week ♦ August

**ADULT WEEKEND** (Ages 21+)  
One weekend ♦ July

**SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION IN 2015** February 1, 2:00 PM  
Audubon Naturalist Society ♦ Woodend  
8940 Jones Mill Road ♦ Chevy Chase, MD



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
BCWS 3700 Burgundy Rd., Alexandria, VA 22303  
burgundycenter.org ♦ 703-842-0470



Ikona Photography

*Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason recognizes 2014 Natural History Field Studies graduates (from left to right) Sujata Roy, Cathy Wiss, and Jean Mansavage at the Annual Meeting. Clare Allocca, David Gorsline, Karen Lasday, Margaret Ruth, Susan Sprenke, and Ruth Washington also received the Certificate of Accomplishment. Congratulations to all! For a wrapup of the Annual Meeting see page 7.*