

# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2016



## Stream cleanups, green festivals, and superheroes

by Kelli Holsendolph & Cathy Grubman

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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**SENIOR EDITOR**

Kelli Holsendolph

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Pam Oves

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

ANS Headquarters/Woodend

Sanctuary

301-652-9188

FAX 301-951-7179

ANShome.org

hq@anshome.org

Audubon Sanctuary Shop

301-652-3606

Conservation, MD x22

Conservation, VA 571-278-5535

Environmental Education x16

Membership x35

Publications, advertising x23

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Contributions x31

Special Events x12

Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

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

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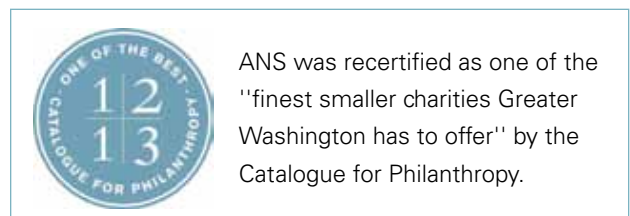
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# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

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**COVER** ANS Communities for Clean Streams Communications Manager Leslie McDermott enthusiastically greets Montgomery County GreenFest attendees. Photo courtesy of Cathy Grubman.



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

## From the Director

Isn't nature grand? This season, I've seen the natural world through new eyes and have you all to thank for it! Despite a particularly soggy spring, I've been refreshed by the sights, sounds and smells of nature and by the good company I've kept on hikes at our sanctuaries and throughout the DC region. On early morning bird walks with the ANS staff, Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason helped me spy a dazzling blue Indigo Bunting on a birdfeeder, a Black and White Warbler feasting on caterpillars, and the flashy orange tail feathers of the Redstart. Walking with Peter Marx of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, we marveled at an old nest of black rat snake eggs, excavated by a Pileated woodpecker for our viewing pleasure. In the company of the past president of the Maryland Native Plant Society, Marney Bruce, and novice botany enthusiast Randi Rubovits-Seitz, we spotted the diminutive single-flowered cancer root, a first-ever plant for me! During a hike for Sidwell Friends families, Board members Ann Fieldhouse, Paul D'Andrea and ANS Master Naturalist Paula Wang tuned our ears to the melodious song of our beloved Wood Thrush, the state bird of Washington, DC. Alan Spears of the National Parks Conservation Association and member of our Woodend 2065 Council, helped me stop and listen to the soundscape of Woodend, enjoying the auditory oasis that frog calls, bird song, and forest quiet provide. Thanks to the sharp eyes of our volunteer Meadow Restoration team, I shared their thrill in finding the first Blue Star Amsonia plant to return to our restored meadow. Together with biodiversity champion, Chris Wright, and notable nature author Melanie Choukas-Bradley, I stopped to smell the fragrant, native fringe tree, its earring-like, white blossoms hanging on longer than usual during this chilly, wet spring. Even after weeks of rain, nature never fails to delight, and nature enthusiasts make excellent company! I always say, "You meet the best people in the woods."



Despite the good company, hiking through the rain this spring reminded me that our local streams are in deep trouble. Think of streams as the capillary system of habitats that provide safe haven for native plants and wildlife. Everywhere I went, I saw evidence that local streams need our help. Forest buffers that protect streambanks throughout the DC region face constant punishment from high volumes and speed of stormwater that scour the stream beds and expose root systems of trees. Streams are assaulted regularly by polluted run-off that carries toxic chemicals and silt, sand and sediment into local waters, robbing aquatic insects and fish of the clean water and oxygen they need to survive. Our local streams are starved for the very water that defines them because relentless development adds acres of rooftops, driveways, roads and parking lots that prevent rain water from soaking into the ground and recharging our waterways. For me, this rainy season drove home the importance of Audubon Naturalist Society's Communities for Clean Streams. Please join me in this important campaign to protect streams. Sign up for one of our many streamside classes so you can see firsthand the amazing Sycamore trees, Kingfishers, Water Pennies, Salamanders and Wood Ducks that stream corridors support. Download our Creek Critters smartphone app and test the water yourself. Visit our Communities for Clean Streams web site ([cleanstreams.anshome.org](http://cleanstreams.anshome.org)) and take action on a local water quality issue. Or join me in planning for the future of Woodend Sanctuary. Our 50-year master plan envisions a complete restoration of Woodend's own Clean Drinking stream and 100% capture of the stormwater that runs off our buildings and parking lots. I'm optimistic about the future of streams because members and friends of Audubon Naturalist Society are passionate about preserving the environment for future generations. Together, we'll safeguard habitats through Communities for Clean Streams and the good company we keep!



## LETTERS

### Passion for Natural History and Adult Learning

From my perspective the NHFS program is wonderful. I tell my friends that it is everything adult education should be: learning for the love of learning, with a group of motivated peers. The level of instruction is pitched just right...and the balance of classroom instruction and field trips is great. The instructors I've had thus far have all been terrific – knowledgeable yes, but moreover accessible and generous, and their own love of the subject matter is contagious.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to take classes in the NHFS program. Most environmental education is aimed at children and youth. Because nature programming wasn't a part of my suburban childhood (and I might not have cared about it or retained it in any case) I am thrilled to be able to learn about natural history as an adult - "when the student is ready, the teacher appears." Thanks to ANS, natural history is becoming a passion. ANS in general, and the field studies program in particular, are at the top of the best things about living in this metro area.

Robinne Gray, Berwyn Heights, MD

**STAFF UPDATES:** After ten years of service to Audubon Naturalist Society, we said farewell to Conservation Director **Diane Cameron** in late March. Diane led conservation advocacy for ANS, scoring victories for clean streams and local watersheds around the region—not the least of which, Ten Mile Creek. Diane is starting her own consulting business. We wish her much success and look forward to collaborating with her in this new capacity. Heading west, and saying goodbye to ANS, is Development Manager **Antoinette Sooh**. Antoinette accepted a Director of Special Events position with the Summit Public School system, a Silicon Valley-based charter school network in Menlo Park, California. Lastly, we said goodbye and good luck to **Alex Rausch**, Environmental Educator, as she left ANS this spring headed for Uganda with the Peace Corps. Alex's parting words: "I look forward to sharing the wonders of nature with children in Africa and beyond."

# Stream cleanups, green festivals, and superheroes

by Kelli Holsendolph & Cathy Grubman

To us environmental lovers, spring means clean ups, Earth Day celebrations, Green festivals and loads of opportunities to get outdoors and give back to nature.

On April 16, this spring, we put our boots on with the City of Rockville for a stream cleanup.

The Maryvale Park stream cleanup was one of three held by Rockville as part of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. For the event, ANS Communities for Clean Streams Communications Manager Leslie McDermott and volunteer Frank Sanford represented us well, demonstrating our stream monitoring tools to the crowd of about 50 attendees.

City of Rockville Environment Commission Volunteer Organizer Amanda Matheny said while the primary goal for the day was to remove trash from the stream, “we also want to engage and educate the community about the importance of clean streams

and the watershed.”

The stream at Maryvale Park drains to Croydon Creek, which drains to Rock Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River.

Event attendees reported hearing about the clean up through the City of Rockville’s *Rockville Reports* newsletter, ANS’s Communities for Clean Streams website, Montgomery County’s volunteer website, and through social sites.

“The turn-out [for the event] is wonderful,” added Matheny.

Once the volunteers were done collecting trash, Sanford and McDermott led conversations about the health of the stream and invited attendees to analyze the stream’s water quality using ANS’s Creek Critters phone app and magnifiers. The health of a stream is indicated by what bugs (benthic macroinvertebrates) can live in it.

“Unfortunately, the water quality is poor, based on the benthic

macroinvertebrates we see,” said Sanford. “Midges and aquatic worms are about all we’re getting.”

Many of the day’s attendees were students—giving them a chance to help the environment while earning Student Service Learning hours. Zhujiu Jiang, a 10<sup>th</sup> grader at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, and her mother combed the banks of the stream, picking up food wrappers and plastic bottles.

When asked why she chose this activity for her volunteer hours, Jiang said: “I want a clean earth. And I want to study biology. I want to be a scientist.”



Photo by Cathy Grubman



Photo by Cathy Grubman

Paint Branch High School seniors Tirsia Bernal and Jennifer Otzoy were knee-deep in the water, pulling plastic bags from under a rock.

“It’s nice to be able to help the community,” said Bernal. “And it’s great to be outside on a beautiful day like this. I like environmental science so this is interesting to me.”

Maria Erazo, a student at the University of Maryland, and her younger brother Francisco, who attends Gaithersburg High School, heard about the cleanup through a friend.

“We grew up two blocks from here,” Erazo said. “We always came to this park so we decided to come back and help the community. Plus it’s kind of fun to get wet.”

April 30 brought the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Montgomery County GreenFest in Takoma Park, Maryland and ANS was there.

GreenFest was organized by a coalition of government and non-profit partners, designed to connect Montgomery County residents with resources for environmental solutions to build a healthier planet and greener environment.

US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy was the keynote speaker. McCarthy recognized how Montgomery County has become an example to other communities. She noted the county's progressive environmental measures impact on national legislation.

"You continue to push the envelope," McCarthy told a packed auditorium. "And what happens in Montgomery County...doesn't stay in Montgomery County. The world has made remarkable progress, but don't be fooled. We must remind ourselves that we still need to keep driving the environmental movement farther."

County dignitaries, including Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett; several Montgomery County Councilmembers; Maryland State Senator Jamie Raskin; Takoma Park Mayor Katie Stewart and Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection Director Lisa Feldt were all part of the day's festivities.

There were educational and interactive workshops, film screenings, live music and entertainment.

ANS was among the more than 80 exhibitors and vendors attending.

"We are here to demonstrate the Creek Critters phone app, encourage volunteering, tell people about our nature education programs and let them know about the events we host," said McDermott.

Silver Spring resident Debbie Abramson visited the ANS booth and learned, "that the Audubon [Naturalist] Society isn't just about birds—I thought it was. I got some info regarding Communities for Clean Streams and the master naturalist training."

Nancy Descalzi, who lives in Chevy Chase, discovered more about how macroinvertebrates can indicate the health of a stream.



Photo by Cathy Grubman

"I live near Rock Creek and I am concerned about its viability," she said. "This looks like a way I can help add to the science behind keeping the creek healthy. I'm not very technical but the app was easy to follow."

Throughout the month of April, ANS attended and promoted at least half a dozen other community clean ups and stream events around the region, including events in Springfield and Haymarket, Virginia; Earth Day cleanups and celebrations with Clean Streams Partner Anacostia Watershed Society; a trash clean up at Ten Mile Creek and Earth Day festivals at Brookside Nature Center and Brookside Gardens.

Summer will bring more opportunities to get out into streams across the region. Stay tuned to [CleanStreams.anshome.org](http://CleanStreams.anshome.org) for upcoming events.

While you're on the site, don't miss our Stream Superheroes campaign,

also launched during our busy April. Our streams need a few good superheroes. Could that be you?

"The purpose of the Stream Superheroes campaign is two-pronged," said McDermott. "We want to identify and encourage people who are working to keep our streams clean, and expand our reach to other like-minded organizations and businesses who might be good partners for clean streams."

Join the force today. Follow three easy steps: Create your superhero name. Tell us your superhero story. And finally, show off your superpowers in photos or artwork. (Costumes encouraged!) Invite your friends to get involved, too.

Our staff, volunteers, members, supporters and all those featured here are the real superheroes for local streams, every day. Thank you. Help us celebrate your good deeds and grow your ranks, visit [CleanStreams.anshome.org](http://CleanStreams.anshome.org).



# Conservation



## Audubon Naturalist Society Joins VOCES Verdes for Watershed Advocacy Workshop

On April 21, ANS Virginia Conservation Advocate Monica Billger partnered with VOCES Verdes to host a Watershed Advocacy Workshop in Northern Virginia.

VOCES is a non-partisan network of Latino business, public health, academic, community leaders and organizational partners who advocate for sound environmental policy to combat climate change and support clean, renewable energy.

The workshop featured Speaker Delegate Alfonso Lopez, the first Latino elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. Speaker Delegate Lopez provided an update on the status of current environmental legislation in Virginia. VOCES Verdes led a question and answer session with a panel of Latino community leaders and Monica led participants in an advocacy training designed to empower local residents and communities.

Twenty attended from government, nonprofit, and environmental groups. The group discussed the environmental issues disproportionately affecting Latino communities and talked about ways to inspire environmental champions and encourage advocacy and stewardship in communities.



A HUGE thank you to everyone who is participating in this year's Bloomin' Birdathon, either as a counter or sponsor. We are getting some great counts. Maybe this long stretch of cold, rainy weather is keeping some of our spring migrants here longer than usual: certainly at Woodend, we have seen some wonderful warblers on our staff and free Saturday morning bird walks.

As we go to print, Birdathon counters are still accepting sponsors (post facto) so please join us in this important (and fun) fundraiser. Proceeds support ANS's environmental education and conservation advocacy programs and are fully tax-deductible. Want further information? Contact Loree Trilling: 301-652-9188 x35.

## Help Restore Biodiversity at Woodend Sanctuary

When we surveyed our members, overwhelmingly your top priority was restoring biodiversity at Woodend. We are thrilled that we are very close to making this a reality. As you all know, the grounds of Woodend have been devastated by over-browsing by deer. Biodiversity here has plummeted over the past 30 years.

We are just \$25,000 away from raising enough money to install a 10' chain link fence around the property (with cattle grating at each entrance). Our mile-long fence will keep deer out while enabling smaller animals to pass under the fence.

While we have no idea of what may lie underneath the top soil at Woodend, we anticipate that we will start seeing results almost immediately. Seedlings will have a chance to thrive for the first time in years!

But first we must complete the fence and we urgently need your help. Our perimeter is 5,040 feet long and each foot of fence costs \$32.

We only have 780 feet to go.

Please help us by purchasing a foot of fence – or more – today so we can install the fence this fall and start restoring Woodend to its natural beauty. An eight foot fence section costs just \$258.

Please complete and return the form below and THANK YOU from all of us at ANS for helping to help restore biodiversity to Woodend!

**YES! I want to donate to the deer fence project and help restore biodiversity at Woodend.**

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ made out to ANS.

Please charge my VISA or Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Mail to ANS, 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

**Save the Date**

**ANS Annual Meeting  
Thursday, October 20, 6-9 pm**



*Birds of a Feather...  
Flock Together!*

Proud to Support, Sponsor, and Build a  
Relationship with the Audubon Naturalist Society!



**EAGLEBANK**

MD | DC | VA | 301.986.1800  
EagleBankCorp.com

# 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!

## Outdoor Adventures This Summer: There's More to Camp Audubon!



ANS EE photo

Middle schoolers and tweens: Get outside and explore this summer. We offer a wide variety of programs for campers grades 4-8. Travel camps, overnights, and more. Fish on the Chesapeake Bay, backpack the AT Trail, kayak local waters, construct a green building, and uncover hidden histories.

Register online at [anshome.org/camp](http://anshome.org/camp).  
Questions? Call 301-652-9188 x15.

### Nature Backpacks

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

**FREE!**

## Weekend Walks in the Woods!



- First Saturday of the month, 9am-10am
- Free, no registration required
- All ages welcome!
- Each month, an ANS naturalist will cover a different topic, such as deer, fungi, trees, insects, and birds
- Meet at the gazebo by the Audubon Naturalist Shop



## Summer Nature Camp Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Capon Bridge, WV

**54th Season**

**SENIOR PROGRAM** (Ages 11-15)

Session 1: Sunday, June 26 - Saturday, July 9 - **FULL**

Session 2: Tuesday, July 12 - Tuesday, July 26

Session 3: Wednesday, August 3 - Tuesday, August 16

**JUNIOR PROGRAM** (Ages 8 - 10) - **FULL**

One week ♦ August 21 - 27



Hike, swim, and hunt for birds, butterflies and salamanders in the WV mountains.  
Active days filled with games, arts, and laughter.  
ACA Accredited.

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

Friday, July 29 - Sunday, July 31

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

Roam the ridges Taste wild edibles Learn bird songs

Leaf print your T-shirt Sketch by the stream

*Knowledgeable staff, delicious food, beautiful surroundings*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[michelem@burgundyfarm.org](mailto:michelem@burgundyfarm.org) ♦ [burgundycenter.org](http://burgundycenter.org)  
703-842-0470

## Congratulations to our Maryland Green Schools

We are celebrating the many schools that have certified and re-certified as Maryland Green Schools thanks to our GreenKids partnership program with Montgomery County Public Schools. The following schools earned their very first Maryland Green School certifications in May after completing the two-year GreenKids partnership: Fox Chapel Elementary, Glenallan Elementary, Montgomery Knolls Elementary, Pine Crest Elementary and Benjamin Banneker Middle School.

The following schools earned their first re-certifications this year (four years after initial certification) with support from GreenKids: Beverly Farms Elementary, Burning Tree Elementary, Harmony Hills Elementary, Highland View Elementary, Captain James E. Daly Elementary, Cedar Grove Elementary, Montgomery Knolls Elementary, Somerset Elementary, Strathmore Elementary, Summit Hall Elementary and Takoma Park Elementary.

All of these schools serve as great examples by demonstrating a strong commitment to reducing the environmental impacts of their schools and developing students who are stewards of the Earth. GreenKids has supported all of these schools by infusing environmental education into the curriculum, getting students outside to learn, providing professional development for teachers, helping schools develop strategies to reduce environmental impacts through everyday actions and providing opportunities for students to take action in their communities to reduce litter, plant native gardens and improve watershed health.

We celebrated with the schools at the annual Maryland Green School Youth Summit on May 13 at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

### For More Information:

- Call 301-652-9188 X10
- Email: [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org)

### Cost:

- \$225 for ANS members
- \$260 for nonmembers, which includes a one-year family membership to ANS

### Birthday Party Times:

- Fridays, 4:00-5:30 pm
- Saturdays, 10:30 am-12 pm or 1:30-3:00 pm
- Sundays, 10:30 am-12 pm or 1:30-3:00 pm

### Register:

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



## Nature Birthday Parties!



## 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).

## ANS Intern Inspired by Students



ANS was fortunate to have Justine Henninger, a junior at Walt Whitman High School, spend the school year supporting our youth education programs through a science internship. Justine helped prepare curriculum materials and was a fantastic assistant teacher in our afterschool programs. She says, "Over the course of my internship I have learned how rewarding it is to be able to educate younger children about the beauty of the natural world. I love seeing how interested the students are in learning about new things and their constant participation during lessons and games makes me very happy. One of my favorite experiences was during our Earth Day lesson. All the

children ran around their school yard finding trash. They were shocked with the amount of litter that they collected, and they now want to ask their principal to put a trashcan in their schoolyard." Justine plans to major in environmental science in college, and is excited to pursue a career that involves teaching more about the environment.



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

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

All Nature Preschool programs run September-May and follow the MCPS calendar.



## Drop-off Programs

### Saplings

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

### Oaks

Forest Kindergarten extended day  
All outdoor program  
Mondays through Thursdays, 11:45 am-2 pm; Fridays, 9 am-12 pm  
\*Oaks attend AM Saplings class  
Mondays through Thursdays

## Parent and Child Programs

### Acorns

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

### Sprouts

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

### CONTACT US

301-652-9188 x32  
[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.

### BOOK YOUR PROGRAM FOR MD & DC PROGRAMS ONLINE!

Our 2015-2016 school program brochure is available at [ANShome.org/school](http://ANShome.org/school).

## Audubon Nature Preschool: A Natural Education for Preschoolers

This spring, the Audubon Nature Preschool earned recertification as a 2016 Maryland Green School from the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE). Audubon Nature Preschool is the only certified green preschool in Montgomery County (the only other one in the state of Maryland is in Anne Arundel County).

"We tie the natural world into every unit of study and celebrate the Earth every day," said ANS Preschool Director Stephanie Bozzo.

The Audubon Nature Preschool philosophy is as lofty as the branches in the woodlands where it resides: nurture the whole child, foster partnerships with families, and commit to providing individualized educational experiences for each child which focus on the natural world.

The preschool offers five programs: Preschool AM Class, Preschool PM Class, Forest Kindergarten Oaks, the Parent-Tot Class, and Tagalong Thursdays. Programs are for children 5 years of age and younger.

"We were drawn to [Audubon Nature Preschool] because we wanted our children to have a reverence for nature, and we wanted an emphasis on playing and discovering rather than academics," said Shannon Lyons, who lives in Kensington. Her son, Ben, 7, is a graduate and son Jake, 4, currently attends the preschool.

For more on the Audubon Nature Preschool, including online sign up for classes, go to [anshome.org/preschool](http://anshome.org/preschool).

## Fresh Air Kids – Two Locations!

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



### Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg, VA Fridays (10-11:30 am)

Fall: September 30-December 2, 2016

Winter: January 13-March 3, 2017

Spring: March 17-May 19, 2017

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

Sign up for all three sessions and receive \$50 off!

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS to Rust Sanctuary, 802 Children's Center Rd., Leesburg, VA 20175. To register go to: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4DAAAC2FA2F49-fresh](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4DAAAC2FA2F49-fresh).

### Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA Mondays (10-11 am)

Fall: September 26-November 14, 2016

Early Spring: March 13-April 24, 2017

Late Spring: May 1-June 12, 2017

Cost: \$65 (siblings 21 months and older \$40, siblings under 21 months free)

Sign up for all three sessions and receive \$30 off!

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS to Rust Sanctuary, 802 Children's Center Rd., Leesburg, VA 20175. Offered in partnership with NOVA Parks. To register go to: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4DAAAC2FA2F49-201617](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4DAAAC2FA2F49-201617).

*Thank you for leading such a fantastic nature program! You're a wonderful teacher and my daughter talks about you often. She was always engaged and loved going every week. It enriched her vocabulary (and mine, I learned a lot!), got her asking even more questions, and gave us a jumping off point for many nature hikes and explorations to come.*

*-Fresh Air Kid parent*

## Naturalist in the Classroom

Can't come to Rust on a field trip? **Reduce your carbon footprint** and we will come to you!

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

- PreK-5th: Wonderful Worms, Reptiles and Amphibians, Birds of a Feather, Green Cleaners
- 3rd-5th: We All Live Downstream, Skull and Scat, Watts Up, Paper making, Enviroscope, Erosion in a Bottle.

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



## 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! Cost is \$225 for ANS members and \$260 for nonmembers, which includes a one year membership to ANS. Download a brochure at [ANSHome.org/birthday](http://ANSHome.org/birthday). Contact Susanne Ortmann for more info: [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org) or 703-669-0000.



KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE

703-669-0000 | [ANSHome.org/Rust](http://ANSHome.org/Rust)

802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg, Virginia

# Adult Programs

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

## ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- 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.
- If a class is full, you may waitlist for it for free online.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).

## Advanced Odonate Studies: Common Damselflies of the Mid-Atlantic

Thursday, June 9 (7:30-9:30 pm)  
Sunday, June 12 (3/4 day field trip)  
Leader: Richard Orr  
Members \$46; nonmembers \$64  
Lecture only \$20/\$28

Feel like you're ready to "graduate" from our annual Introduction to "Dragonfly and Damselfly" class led by dragonfly expert Richard Orr? Join us for this advanced class focusing on field identification of the common damselflies of the Mid-Atlantic region. Orr will combine an evening presentation with a field trip to Patuxent Research Center. This is the third of four classes that will cover field ID of all of the dragonfly and damselfly groups in the mid-Atlantic area. Look for "ID of Mature Larvae and Cast Skins of Stream/River Dragonflies" in 2017. Just getting started in dragonflies and damselflies? Our leader's introductory class in August is for you.

## WEEKLY PLANT CLINIC

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



## A Year at Boundary Bridge

Saturdays (9 am-2 pm)  
Section C: June 11 **FULL**  
Section D: October 29  
Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley  
Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Join the author of the award-winning book, *A Year in Rock Creek Park—the Wild, Wooded Heart of Washington, DC*, for our 10th year of hikes in one of D.C.'s most beautiful wild areas. Celebrating the National Park Service's Centennial during 2016, 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. Melanie will introduce the Japanese concept of "forest bathing" or shinrin-yoku, a mindful and sensory form of nature meditation with proven health benefits, during a portion of each of her 2016 walks. 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.

## 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).

## Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)

Section A: June 15 - Riley's Lock **FULL**

Section B: June 29 - Widewater

Section C: July 6 - Carderock

Section D: July 20 - Swain's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$72/\$100

Summer's here and it may be hot, so we'll keep our pace to a shuffle as we visit four areas along the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. We'll stop often to observe birds, wildflowers, butterflies, dragonflies, snakes, and whatever else we may find underfoot or overhead. Carpooling will be available from Woodend.

## Woodend Master Plan Walks

F: Wednesday, June 15 (10-11 am)

G: Saturday, July 9 (9-11 am)

Leader: Lisa Alexander

Free, but registration required for each session.

Tour Woodend with the Executive Director to learn more about the Woodend Master Plan now under development and to share your ideas for transforming our beloved nature sanctuary into a premier environmental destination for the region.

## Butterflies of Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, June 18 (full day field trip)

Leader: Dick Smith

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Join a butterfly expert on a search for early summer butterflies at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, situated near the mouth of the Chester River and the Chesapeake Bay. We'll explore up to a couple of miles in generally open and sunny terrain as we explore the meadow, woodland, and beach habitats of this natural area. We'll hope to spot and ID a wide variety of species, all the while discussing their life histories and host plant relationships.

## Fern Basics

Sunday, June 19 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Walk the moderate trails of Riverbend Park, home to at least fifteen fern species, with a naturalist who knows this area well. We'll ID what we find, and along the way learn what it is that makes a plant a fern, plus the common characteristics you can use to identify ferns on your own. *Note: there will be some uphill/downhill on this hike of several miles.*

## Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 25

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

## Early Summer Wildflowers

Saturday, June 25 (8:30 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Follow a naturalist along the boardwalk of the wetlands at Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria, VA, in a search for the early blooms of summer in the rich marsh habitats there. While plants will be our focus, we'll also keep our eyes and ears open for wildlife, including turtles, frogs, birds, and butterflies. Flat walking conditions, but most of the time will be spent in open, sunny areas.

## Geology at Great Falls, MD

Sunday, June 26 (8-11 am)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

People in our region find Great Falls both fascinating and perplexing. Arguably our most dramatic landscape feature, its origin and development remain obscure to many. We will take a short and easy walk from the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center to the falls overlook, a round trip of about a mile. During the walk, we will discuss how the bedrock of the Great Falls area formed in tectonic collisions hundreds of millions of years ago and how the waxing and waning of the continental glacier led to the much more recent creation of the falls. There should even be time to examine the flora and birdlife along our path.



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).

## Six-legged Songsters of Summer

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

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Free, but registration is required.

**FREE**

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

## Summer in the Parks

Section A: Saturday, July 2 (8-11:30 am)

Piscataway Park, MD

Section B: Tuesday, July 19 (8-11:30 am)

Theodore Roosevelt Island, DC

Section C: Saturday, July 23 (8-11:30 am)

Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge, VA

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$66/90

Join two naturalists to explore the summer richness of parks in the Potomac Watershed. As summer arrives and progresses into its muggy days and nights, wetlands and meadows soak up the sun and come alive with plant and wildlife activity. We'll explore these habitats with walks of up to 2-3 miles in search of birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, amphibians, and summer plant life—all at a slow summer's pace.

## The Summer Side of Blue Mountain

Sunday, July 3 (full-day hike)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers: \$46

Although the Thompson Wildlife Management Area on Blue Mountain near Linden, VA is renowned for its spring display of wildflowers, its rich woodlands can be just as interesting to explore in the summer. While others head to the beach this holiday weekend, we'll enjoy mountain blooms and the butterflies they attract, search for salamanders under logs, and keep an eye out and ear open for birds which nest here, including Scarlet Tanager, and Hooded and Cerulean Warblers. We'll cover 3-4 miles at a leisurely pace, but there will be uphill and downhill walking on rocky and uneven trails.



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK

## Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Rachel Carson Park

Sunday, July 10 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Rachel Carson Park protects a variety of natural communities, including oak-hickory woodlands, mountain laurel thickets, rocky outcroppings, and Hawlings River bottomlands. Under the guidance of the County's forest ecologist, we'll explore these communities identifying trees, ferns, and summer wildflowers along the way. On this 2-3 mile hike, expect some uphill/downhill walking over terrain that may be uneven, rocky and/or muddy.

## Bees in the Backyard

Sunday, July 24 (9:30 am-Noon)

Leader: Nate Erwin

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Discover the diversity of native bees and other pollinators right outside your doorstep and in your garden. Join our leader in his home garden in Alexandria, VA and in surrounding natural areas for a look at what's helping produce many of the seeds and fruits in your neighborhood. Nate Erwin is an entomologist working on collections at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

## Butterfly Basics at Black Hill Park

Sunday, July 24 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28



Pipevine Swallowtail by Julianne Shinnick

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

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.

## Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

**Summer Walk: Wednesday, July 27 (10 am-Noon)**

**Fall Walk: Wednesday, October 26 (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.

## The Natural History of Caterpillars

**Thursday, July 28 (7:30-9:30 pm)**

**Saturday, July 30 (9 am-3 pm)**

**Leader: Nate Erwin**

**Members \$46; nonmembers \$64**

**Lecture only \$20/\$28**

Here's a chance to learn about caterpillars' many forms and their fascinating life histories, including defense strategies. We'll find and identify local caterpillars and discuss their host plant associations. With entomologist Nate Erwin, we'll combine an evening presentation at Woodend with field exploration at a nearby natural area.

## Morning Paddle on the Potomac

**Saturday, August 6 (9-11 am)**

**Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Sujata Roy**

**Members \$24; nonmembers \$34 (does not include canoe/kayak rental fee)**

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

## Forest Bathing Walk

**Sunday, August 7 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)**

**Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$40**

We are happy to offer a Shinrin-yoku or forest bathing walk on a farm in Comus, MD near Sugarloaf Mountain. Numerous studies in Japan, Europe and North America have demonstrated the health benefits of spending quiet time immersed in nature, including lowered levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lowered blood pressure, increased immune system function, and elevated mood (things that ANS members already knew!). We will walk less than a mile at a slow pace and spend quiet time sitting and watching summer wildflowers and nectaring butterflies. Our leader says this walk is "more about being than IDing." She has portable forest bathing stools to loan to each participant for the duration of the foray. Melanie welcomes any questions about this new form of nature meditation, which evolved from practices in Japan and Korea: [mcb@melaniechoukas-bradley.com](mailto:mcb@melaniechoukas-bradley.com).

## Introduction to Dragonfly and Damselfly Studies

**Thursday, August 11 (7:30-9:30 pm)**

**Sunday, August 14 (3/4 day field trip)**

**Leader: Richard Orr**

**Members \$46; nonmembers \$64**

**Lecture only \$20/\$28**

Grab your binoculars and prepare to set your sights not on birds — although "mosquito hawk" is a common moniker — but on those six-legged, aerial acrobats of wetland habitats: the dragonflies and damselflies. On Thursday evening, local entomologist and dragonfly expert Richard Orr will use slides and videos to discuss identification, biology, and behavior of the more common species of Odonates in our area. Our field trip to the Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract) near Bowie, MD, where our leader has conducted dragonfly studies, will give us a chance to test our identification skills.

## Bugs 101

**Saturday, August 20 (8:30-11 am)**

**Leader: Cliff Fairweather**

**Members \$20; nonmembers \$28**

All true bugs are insects, but not all insects are truly bugs. Confused? On this field trip for beginning bug-huggers, a naturalist will try to clear up such confusion. Using the McKee-Beshers WMA near Poolesville as our outdoor classroom, we'll learn to distinguish insects from related arthropods, and look for the identifying characteristics of major insect groups. Our leader will also talk about adaptations, life histories and ecology. Field conditions will include sunny, open areas with tall vegetation.

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jun 4	7:30 am	Little Bennett bird walk		23	Aug 3	7 pm	Introduction to Fungi begins	Y	25
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19	Aug 6	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8
"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8	"	"	Morning Paddle on the Potomac	Y	15
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
"	2:30 pm	Elliott Island	Y	12	Aug 7	9:30 am	Forest Bathing Walk	Y	19
Jun 5	7 am	Breeding Bird Walk at McKee-Beshers	Y	12	Aug 11	7:30 pm	Intro to Dragonfly & Damselfly Studies	Y	15
Jun 9	7:30 pm	Advanced Odonate Studies	Y	12	Aug 13	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
Jun 11	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19	Aug 20	8:30 am	Bugs 101	Y	15
"	9 am	A Year at Boundary Bridge	Y	13	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12	Aug 25	7:30 pm	Intro to ID of Shorebirds	Y	18
Jun 12	7 am	Fort C.F. Smith Park bird walk		23	Aug 26	after dark	Crickets Count! Citizen Science Activity		18
Jun 14	6 pm	Author event at Woodend		28	Aug 27	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
Jun 15	9 am	Woodend Master Plan Walk		13	Aug 28	6:45 am	Rock Creek Park bird walk		23
"	10 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal	Y	13	Aug 31	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
Jun 18	full day	Butterflies of Eastern Neck	Y	13	Sep 3	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19	"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
Jun 19	9 am	Fern Basics	Y	13	Sep 4	8 am	Sycamore Landing bird walk		23
Jun 20	6 pm	Wetland Ecosystems begins	Y	24	Sep 10	6:30 am	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23
"	7 pm	Non-Native Invasive Plants begins	Y	24	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19
Jun 21	7 pm	Animal Behavior begins	Y	24	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
Jun 22	6:30 pm	Insect Life begins	Y	24	"	full day	Fall Butterflies of the Ocoquan	Y	18
Jun 23	6 pm	Butterflies of Early Summer	Y	25	Sep 11	7 am	Fall Birding Series A	Y	18
Jun 25	all day	Western MoCo Butterfly Count		14	"	12:30 pm	Late Summer Meadow	Y	18
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19	Sep 14	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal A	Y	19
"	8:30 am	Early Summer Wildflowers	Y	13	Sep 15	7:30 pm	Bat Chat		18
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12	Sep 17	3/4 day	Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park	Y	19

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jun 26	8 am	Geology at Great Falls, MD	Y	13	"	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19
Jun 29	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
"	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal B	Y	13	"	"	Snickers Gap Hawkwatch bird walk		23
Jun 30	7:30 pm	Six-legged Songsters of Summer		14	Sep 19	9 am	On the Move at Cape May	Y	19
Jul 2	"	Summer in the Parks A	Y	14	Sep 24	7 am	Fall Birding Series B	Y	18
"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		19
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12	"	9 am	Georgetown Geology Loop Hike	Y	19
Jul 3	full day	The Summer Side of Blue Mountain	Y	14	"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12
Jul 6	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal C	Y	13	Sep 25	10 am	Fall Botany at Gunpowder Falls State Park	Y	24
Jul 9	9 am	Woodend Master Plan Walk		13	Sep 26	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian begins	Y	11
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12	Sep 28	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
Jul 10	7:30 am	Pennyfield in the Summer bird walk		23	"	10 am	Midweek Meander Along the Canal B	Y	19
"	9 am	Rachel Carson Park	Y	14	Sep 30	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	11
Jul 16	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12					
Jul 19	8 am	Summer in the Parks B	Y	14					
Jul 20	9 am	Summer Shuffle Along the Canal D	Y	13					
Jul 21	7:30 pm	Celebrating Nearly 90 Years of Teaching		29					
Jul 23	8:30 am	Delaware Coastal Areas bird walk		23					
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12					
Jul 24	9 am	Butterfly Basics at Black Hill	Y	15					
"	9:30 am	Bees in the Backyard	Y	15					
Jul 27	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23					
"	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	15					
Jul 28	7:30 pm	Natural History of Caterpillars	Y	15					
Jul 30	6 pm	Weather and Climate begins	Y	25					
"	10 am	Master Gardener Plant Clinic		12					

Keep our campers safe!  
Please observe the One-Way signs at Woodend this summer.



Y = Fee-based program

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

## Intro to the Natural History and ID of Shorebirds: Part 2

Thursday, August 25 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, August 27 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Cyndie Loeper and John Bjerke

Members \$48; nonmembers \$68

Lecture only \$20/\$28

Shorebirds are among the most spectacular migrants of the avian world. Many species breed as far north as the Arctic tundra and winter as far south as Patagonia. In this advanced session of our annual beginner's class in late-May or mid-July, our leaders will review the natural histories of shorebirds and offer ID pointers in the classroom part of the workshop. On the field trip to Delaware's Bombay Hook, we'll encounter the more difficult plumages of this time of year, including juveniles. Our late August date will give us chances for rarities, such as Baird's Sandpiper, and "grasspipers," such as American Golden Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Although the IDs can be more challenging in late summer, beginners who wish to experience the great diversity of species in southbound migration are welcome to sign up.

## Crickets Count! Citizen Science Activity

Friday, August 26 (after dark)

Be a part of the fourth annual DC/Baltimore Cricket Crawl. Participants will learn the songs of eight species of crickets and katydids, then spend a few minutes to listen for their songs and send in their observations. For details on this citizen science project, which ANS is cosponsoring, check out this link: <http://www.discoverlife.org/cricket/DC/>. Rain date for the Cricket Count is August 27.



## Fall Butterflies of the Occoquan Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, September 10 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

A former military research station, the 644-acre Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge is located at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers south of Alexandria, VA. More than 60 butterfly species have been recorded among its wet meadows, expanses of native grasses, and extensive shoreline. We'll explore a variety of habitats in search of late-season butterflies, such as Sleepy Orange, Buckeye, Cloudless Sulphur, and Monarch, among others. We'll walk up to 3 miles in generally open and sunny terrain.

## Fall Birding Series

A: Sunday, September 11: Paint Branch Trail, MD (Mark England) (7-10 am)

B: Saturday, September 24: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Mike Bowen) (7-10 am)

C: Sunday, October 2: Blue Mash Nature Trail, MD (Mark England) (7:30-10:30 am)

D: Saturday, October 15: Occoquan Bay NWR (Mike Bowen) (7:30-10:30 am)

E: Sunday, October 23: Patuxent River Park/Jug Bay Natural Area (John Bjerke) (8-11 am)

F: Saturday, November 5: Huntley Meadows, VA (Mike Bowen) (8-11 am)

G: Sunday, November 13: Hughes Hollow, MD (John Bjerke) (8-11 am)

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$134/\$190

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

## Late Summer Meadow

Sunday, September 11 (12:30-5 pm)

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Join two naturalists for a closer look at the web of life in both wet and dry meadows at Little Bennett Regional Park in upper Montgomery County, MD. We'll search for the wildlife that finds food and shelter amidst the late-blooming, sun-loving wildflowers and fruiting grasses, including butterflies and other late season insects, birds, and reptiles and amphibians.

## Bat Chat

Thursday, September 15 (7:30-9 pm)

Leader: Fred Seitz

Free, but registration required.

FREE

Come and explore the natural history and conservation concerns of the bats of our region with this program at our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. We will learn about the habits and habitats of these fascinating mammals through a slide lecture. We'll also head out onto the sanctuary grounds for a short search for bats in the evening sky. Our leader is a Master Naturalist Volunteer with a particular passion for these flying mammals.

## Midweek Meanders Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: September 14 - Carderock

B: September 28 - Riley's Lock

C: October 5 - Widewater

D: October 19 - Pennyfield Lock

E: November 2 - Swain's Lock

F: November 30 - Violette's Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$96/\$134

Enjoy one or all of these leisurely autumn walks along portions of the C&O Canal that enjoy less traffic than the towpath stretches close to Washington. The focus of our walks, each beginning from a different location, will be general natural history of the varied habitats along the Potomac River and the C&O Canal. We'll proceed at a "naturalist's shuffle" pace, stopping often to observe birds, fall wildflowers and foliage, butterflies, snakes, turtles — and whatever else we might find. Participants interested in carpooling will meet at Woodend.

## Fall Flight at Cromwell Valley Park

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

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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

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

Weekly March through June. No walks in July or August. Weekly schedule resumes in September. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. No registration required.

## On the Move at Cape May

Monday, September 19 (9 am) to

Tuesday, September 20 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$100; nonmembers \$140

Cape May, at New Jersey's southern tip, is known around the world as a great concentration point for southbound migrants. Staggering numbers of birds pass through Cape May when the winds come from the northwest after an autumn cold front. A great mix of habitats means there's always lots to see here, even when the winds don't bring the big migratory push. Late September is a peak time for migrating falcons, accipiters, warblers, and monarch butterflies. We plan to visit Cape May Point State Park, the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge, Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area, and other natural areas around Cape May. Overnight options include a variety of motels, hotels, B&Bs, and campgrounds in or near Cape May.

## Georgetown Geology Loop Hike

Saturday, September 24 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

The Georgetown section of Washington, DC sits squarely on a mass of ancient granite, surrounded by various other types and ages of rock. Our hike will be about 5 miles long, through wooded parkland and along city streets. The terrain is easy to moderate, with hills being the biggest challenge. During our hike, we will visit the Coastal Plain, three canyons, the Piedmont upland, and a major fault zone. Not bad for a walk around town. (*Note: this hike will move at a faster pace than our usual naturalists' shuffle.*)

## Fall Botany at Gunpowder Falls State Park

Sunday, September 25 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Our leader describes the Hereford Area of Gunpowder Falls SP in Central Baltimore County as "the best walk in the Maryland piedmont." Join him on this 2-mile walk through rich upland and bottomland woods where we'll make frequent stops to ID and admire trees and shrubs, ferns, fall fruits, and late-blooming wildflowers. Trails are natural surface and may be muddy and uneven.



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

## Late Season Wildflowers

Saturday, October 1 (8:30 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

We're returning to the wetlands of Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria, VA, to search for the last blooms of the season in the rich marsh habitats there. Plants will be our primary focus, we'll also keep our eyes and ears open for wildlife, including still-active turtles, frogs, butterflies, and other wildlife. Flat walking conditions predominate, but forest trails may be muddy.

## Window into the World of Fungi

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

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Free, but registration required.

FREE

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

## Fall Flora Fridays

Fridays (10 am-12:30 pm)

A: Friday, October 7: Scott's Run Nature Preserve, VA (Leader: Liz Jones)

B: Friday, October 21: Blockhouse Point, MD (Leader: Marney Bruce)

C: Friday, November 4: Little Bennett Park, MD (Leaders: Marney Bruce and Liz Jones)

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

Entire series \$54/\$75

On Fall Flora Fridays, we'll enjoy the area's rich diversity of plant life during this season of lingering blooms, developing fruits, and changing color. Join us for one or more of these visits to nearby natural areas. Although aimed at beginning to mid-level plant enthusiasts, all are welcome. Walks A and B include uphill/downhill hiking in upland and bottomland woods for a total of 1.5-2 miles on natural surface trails. Walk B will also include a stream crossing, but there will be helping hands to manage it. Walk C traverses level ground.

## Fall in the Parks

Section A: Saturday, October 8—Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, MD (10 am-2:30 pm)

Section B: Sunday, October 23—Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (8:30 am-1 pm)

Section C: Saturday, November 5—Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge, VA (8:30 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$65/\$91

Join these seasonal, broad-based nature explorations of nearby parks rich in natural history. We'll walk up to 3 miles, on possibly muddy surfaces, as we enjoy changing fall colors, late season blooms, migrant birds and butterflies, and all manner of wildlife. Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary in Calvert County is considered the northwestern-most bald cypress swamp in the US. Here, piney woods and farm fields surround the 100-acre swamp, accessed by a boardwalk trail. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Park, on the banks of the Anacostia River, harbors a variety of plant and animal life in its swamp, marsh and woodland habitats within sight of urban sprawl. An exploration of the Coastal Plain woods and wetlands of Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge near Woodbridge will conclude our series.

## Intro to Tree Identification

Friday, October 14 (10 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Fall is a great time to learn to identify our local trees and shrubs. With brilliant leaves highlighting the twigs, new buds already formed, and many fruits hanging on, there are lots of distinguishing features that help sort out the various species. This program at our Woodend Sanctuary will begin indoors with a look at some techniques of tree identification, coupled with practice using a simple key. We'll then move outdoors to use our new skills to identify many of the trees growing on the grounds. Both beginners and those who want to brush up on their ID skills are welcome.

## Fall on the Appalachian Trail

Sunday, October 16 (full-day hike)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

One of the best ways to explore the seasonal richness of our region is to take a trek along the Appalachian Trail. We'll hike about 6 miles in the fall woods on Maryland's South Mountain, covering the stretch from Gathland State Park, the former estate of a Civil War correspondent, to Fox Gap, an area of heavy fighting in the Battle of South Mountain. We'll stop to enjoy fall plant displays, as well as animal activity, but we will keep a pace necessary to cover the distance stated. *Our hike should be considered moderately strenuous to strenuous, with both uphill and downhill hiking over rocky and uneven terrain.*



## Fall Fungus Walk

Saturday, October 22 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Fall is a great time to get introduced to the most common families of fungi in our area and find out more about their natural history and many ecological functions. We'll visit Brookside Park in Montgomery County, where the natural surface trails will include some uphill and downhill walking. *Note: the focus of our field trip is fungi's important and under-appreciated role in forest ecology, not the edibility of particular species of mushrooms.*

## The Natural and Cultural History of the Ag Reserve

Wednesday, October 26 (10 am-4 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley &

Stephanie Mason

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Thirty-four years ago, with regional farmland rapidly diminishing, Montgomery County had the foresight to set aside more than 90,000 acres of farms and open space in the western and northern third of the county as an "Agricultural Reserve." Come explore this scenic, biologically diverse area and learn how it contributes to clean air and water, the availability of fresh local produce, and the overall quality of life for residents of the metro area. Our trip will visit a working CSA farm, a fall produce and pumpkin stand, an historical site, and perhaps an artist's studio, time permitting, to experience the rich diversity of plants and wildlife (and human livelihoods) that thrive in the Reserve's fields, meadows, wetlands, and rocky woodlands. We'll begin and end the tour in some of the beautiful parkland along its borders: Seneca Creek State Park and Dickerson Conservation Park, site of an American sycamore, officially the largest known tree in MD.

## Late Fall at Cape May

Saturday, October 29 (8 am) – Sunday, October 30 (5 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$100; nonmembers \$140

Cape May is one of the premier spots in North America to see concentrations of southbound birds during the fall migration. October's end typically brings the year's largest concentrations of coastal waterbirds, including scoters, cormorants, and gannets, along with temperate songbird migrants – those species whose migrations stop before reaching the tropics. When the weather conditions are right in late fall, there can be many thousands of sparrows, blackbirds, American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds, Gray Catbirds, kinglets, and others. This is also a time when rare birds show up in Cape May. Some owls are migrating too, and we may have a chance to visit researchers working at night to band them. Overnight options include a variety of motels, hotels, B&Bs, and campgrounds in or near Cape May.

## Raptors on the Move at Waggoner's Gap

Saturday, October 29 (3/4 day field trip)

Leaders: Liam and Laura McGranaghan

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Fall brings thousands of migrating raptors—hawks, falcons, eagles, and their allies—to the Appalachian ridges and Atlantic coast. Our field trip goes to one of the premier hawk-watching sites in the area: Pennsylvania's Waggoner's Gap, about a 2.5-hour drive from DC. Our experienced leaders, known for their raptor expertise, will help you develop your own ID skills for these birds-on-the-move. *Getting to the hawk watch lookout requires walking up a short, but rocky, trail to an outcropping of perched boulders.*

## Fall Tree ID for Birders

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Free, but registration required.

FREE

With trees ablaze in fall colors and their fruits hanging high, we'll learn the identifying characteristics visible through binoculars of the most common species of trees and shrubs along the C&O Canal towpath upstream of Carderock.

## Geology of the Gettysburg Battlefield

Sunday, October 30 (10 am-3pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Although geology in 1863 was an immature science and military geology had not yet been invented, the terrain of southern Pennsylvania directly influenced the strategies and actions of the Union and Confederate armies in their climactic clash at Gettysburg. We will tour the battlefield by car and on foot, visiting a number of sites that reveal the geologic processes and materials that created the landscape. In addition, we will discuss several of the regional topographic features that funneled the two armies to their meeting place. We will do several short and relatively easy circuit hikes, totaling a couple of miles in both open and wooded terrain. The ground will vary from dusty or muddy to rocky, and from level to relatively steep. *Note: The pace on our geology hikes is faster than the usual naturalists' shuffle.*

# 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. **Register online at [www.anshome.org](http://www.anshome.org) as part of the adult foray program registration process.** 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.

Water quality classes will resume in the fall. Check out our fall issue of the *Naturalist Quarterly* in late August for a schedule or visit [anshome.org](http://anshome.org).



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**ANS Annual Meeting**  
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# Free Birding Trips June-September

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

## JUNE

**Saturday, June 4 FULL**

**Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co., MD**

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

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

**Sunday, June 12**

**Fort C.F. Smith Park, Arlington, VA**

One-third day. Nesting songbirds in woods, edge, and meadow habitat. There may be muddy conditions. **Meet**

**time/place:** 7 am in parking lot. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Karen Fairweather, twofairs@msn.com or 703-841-1299.

**Wednesday, June 29**

**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

Half day. Songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and other raptors.

**Meet time/place:** 7:30 am inside the refuge at central parking lot. **Make reservation** (6-adult limit) with leader Jim Waggener, 703-567-3555.

## JULY

**Sunday, July 10**

**Pennyfield in the Summer**

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

**Saturday, July 23**

**Delaware Coastal Areas**

Full day at Bombay Hook, Little Creek, Logan Tract, and other sites. Joint trip with MBC/MOS. Shorebirds, marshbirds, and some songbirds. Bring pack lunch. **Meet time/place:** 8:30 am at Bombay Hook Visitor Center parking lot. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with leader John Bjerke, johnbjerke1@mac.com or 240-401-1643. Cyndie Loeper will co-lead.

**Wednesday, July 27**

**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

See June 29 listing for details.

## AUGUST

**Sunday, August 28**

**Rock Creek Park, Washington, DC**

One-third day walk to view residents, early migrants, and fall warblers in DC's famous city park. **Meet time/place:** 6:45 am in Rock Creek Park at Picnic Area #18, about three-quarters of a mile south of the Nature Center on Ridge Road. **Make reservation** with leader Wallace Kornack, 202-338-7859; if necessary, ask for directions when making reservations.

**Wednesday, August 31**

**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

See June 29 listing for details.

## SEPTEMBER

**Sunday, September 4**

**Sycamore Landing and Hughes Hollow, MD**

Half day. Early migrant songbirds; some raptors, waterfowl, and migrating butterflies. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at the Sycamore Landing parking lot by the C&O Canal. Easy walking trail. For more information, contact leader: Tony Fitcher, 301-422-3927 or tonyfitcher1@verizon.net.

**Saturday, September 10**

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

Half day. Joint trip with MBC/MOS. Driftboat on Patuxent River followed by trail walk. Search for Sora, also migrant and resident songbirds and waterbirds. **Meet time/place:** 6:30 am at park entrance gate. Bring fee of \$6 per person for park program; boat trip can be cool and a bit damp. Leaders: Greg Kearns and John Bjerke. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with John Bjerke, johnbjerke1@mac.com or 240-401-1643.

**Saturday, September 17**

**Snickers Gap Hawkwatch (between Bluemont & Berryville, VA)**

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

**Wednesday, September 28**

**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

See June 29 listing for details.



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK

# 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.

## Non-Native Invasive Plants of the Mid-Atlantic

**NATH2319E, 1.5 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Mondays, 7-9:15 pm**

**Class meetings: June 20-July 18**

**Field Trip dates: June 25 and July 9**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$269**

**Instructor: Kerry Wixted**

Learn about organisms that are non-native to the mid-Atlantic region and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause environmental or economic harm, or harm to human health. Focus is on identification and control of invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant species. Students will receive an overview of the issue, acquire understanding of the multiple impacts of non-native invasives, and gain detailed information about major species of concern in our region and how to manage (remove/control) them. Two field trips to area park properties and natural habitat areas are planned so that students become adept at species identification and can compare various management options. Required: a 10x hand lens or higher quality glass loupe.

## Wetland Ecosystems

**NATH8211E, 3 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm**

**Class meetings: June 20-August 22**

**Field Trip dates: July 16, 23, and 30**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Terry McTigue**

The National Capital area harbors a rich variety of wetlands, ranging from bogs to tidal marshes. Become familiar with the landscape and ecological processes that form wetlands and how to identify the plants and animals commonly found in wetlands. Gain an understanding of wetland conservation, including wetland restoration, and policy.

## Animal Behavior

**NATH1151E, 2 credits**

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

**Class meetings: June 21-August 23**

**Field Trip dates: July 9, August 13 and an optional Monday**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Jane Huff**

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

## Insect Life

**NATH7130E, 3 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm**

**Class meetings: June 22-August 24**

**Field Trip dates: July 10 and 24; August 13 (evening)**

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

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Cathy Stragar**

Learn to identify insects and discover their roles in the balance of nature. Study their life histories, the ecologies of important insect forms, the necessity of insects in biotic communities and principal insect families of the Central Atlantic region.

## Save the Date

**Party for NHFS Instructors Don Messersmith and Jane Huff**

**Thursday, July 21, 7:30-9 pm**

**See page 29 for more info.**

# Summer Courses June-August

Photo by Angela Kramer



## Introduction to Fungi

NATH7203E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: August 3-24

Field Trip dates: August 6 and 20

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Tovi Lehmann

Fungi are incredibly diverse and fascinating organisms that have been shaping the terrestrial biota in many ways we are just beginning to discover and understand. Fungi evolved rather unique strategies of exploitation and cooperation with other organisms. We will cover basic biology of fungi (e.g., anatomy & physiology, life-cycles, ecology, and evolution) while focusing on our local fungi to gain a new perspective and appreciation of their place in the forest around us.

## Butterflies of Early Summer

NATH8270E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: June 23-July 21

Field Trip dates: July 2, 9, 16 (two required); Sunday rain dates

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

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Rick Borchelt

Because they spend time as caterpillars feeding on specific host plants but range widely for nectar as adults, butterflies are sensitive indicators of plant diversity and habitat quality. Participants will learn to identify adult butterflies of the region; study butterfly conservation based on an expanded understanding of butterfly biology, behavior and habitat requirements; and learn how to contribute meaningfully to citizen science projects that track butterfly population dynamics and ranges. Saturday field trips will include opportunities to observe rare and endangered species that are subjects of ongoing conservation efforts, and to participate in one or more official annual butterfly counts.

Find details on Fall NHFS classes, starting in September, at [ANShome.org/NHFS](http://ANShome.org/NHFS)

### Mammals (9/19-11/21)

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Kerry Wixted

### Fall Woody Plant ID (9/13-11/15)

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

Instructor: Emily Ferguson

### Intro to Ecology (9/20-11/22)

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

Instructor: Amanda Rose Newton

### Bird Life (9/21-11/23)

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Mark England

### The Living Soil (9/14-11/23)

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Joel Cohen

### Birds of Prey (9/22-11/17)

Thursdays, Oakton High School, VA

Instructor: Liam McGranaghan

## 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.

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

# Nature Travel

*Discover a new world!*

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

## Scotland: Nature of the Highlands and Islands

July 5-17, 2016

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick, Warwick Lister-Kaye, & 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. 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 \$5200, double occupancy from Glasgow, which includes almost all meals.

## Southeastern Arizona: Crossroads of Western Ecosystems

August 19-28, 2016

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Sheri Williamson

Southeastern Arizona is one of our country's most biologically rich regions. At lower elevations the Sonoran Desert and the Chihuahuan Deserts meet, and the highlands mix some species of the Rocky Mountains with others of the Sierra Madre. There are many birds found in this region that aren't regularly seen in any other part of the US, and there are also distinctive plants, reptiles, butterflies, and more. It never rains much in this desert region, but enough rain typically falls in July and August to bring a flush of green to the landscape and a surge of wildlife activity. Search for birds and other wildlife while learning about this region's ecological diversity with popular ANS leader Rob Gibbs and Sheri Williamson, Director of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory. ANS members' cost is \$2700, double occupancy from Tucson. **This trip is currently full. Call our travel office (301-652-9188, x10) to be put on a waitlist.**

**FULL**

## Cape Breton Island: An Exploration of North Woods and Waters

September 17-25, 2016

Leaders David Farner and Stephanie Mason

ANS is returning to Nova Scotia, but this time we'll focus our explorations on the glacial valleys, coniferous forests, and rocky shores of Cape Breton Island. We'll begin in Fortress Louisbourg, a Parks Canada site illustrating the Island's historic past, while preserving scenic natural areas along the Atlantic. We'll visit trails leading to sandy beaches as well as rocky coast at the Louisbourg lighthouse overlooking the harbor. Among the birds we'll search for here are black guillemot, great cormorant, common eider and black-legged kittiwake. Moving on to Cape Breton Highlands National Park, we'll visit its western side at Cheticamp and its eastern side at Ingonish. Daily outings will take us to a variety of habitats, as we search for boreal birds such as spruce grouse, boreal chickadee and gray jay. We'll also keep our eyes open for migrating warblers, North Woods mammals such as moose and snowshoe hare, and all manner of plant life in woodland, bog, and coastal terrain. Cost of the trip for ANS members is \$2350, double occupancy, from Halifax.

## Panama: A Week at the Iconic Canopy Tower

November 9-16, 2016

Optional extension to November 20, 2016

Leaders: Stephanie Mason & Carlos Bethancourt

We're returning to the former U.S. Military facility that has been ingeniously transformed into an ecotourism and birding lodge called the Canopy Tower. The Tower is located in the Canal Zone, which for many years was U.S. territory and left undeveloped. Today, most of this land is protected as a Panamanian National Park, and the variety of birds and other tropical wildlife found here is overwhelming. We'll spend a week at the tower, with an optional extension to the Canopy Lodge. While we're sure to see a great variety of birds, we'll also spend time observing and learning about plants, butterflies, mammals, reptiles, and other wildlife. **This trip is currently full. Call our travel office (301-652-9188, x10) to be put on a waitlist.**

**FULL**

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

February 14-26, 2017

Optional extension to March 1

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos “Charlie” Gomez

This will be our Senior Naturalist’s 19th year as an ANS leader to this small, tropical wonderland with amazing plant and animal diversity. Our basic trip will visit moist Caribbean lowlands, vast Cano Negro wetlands, tropical dry forest in the northwest Pacific, and lush cloud forest habitat. Our optional extension moves to higher elevations, where tropical oaks grow tall and the Resplendent Quetzal nests. Call to receive the full itinerary and registration information as soon as the planning is complete. Or keep watching our website for details, which will be posted when the registration packet is finalized.

## Galapagos Islands: Darwin’s Wild Classroom

June 23-July 2, 2017

Leaders: Stephanie Mason, Michael O’Brien, Louise Zemaitis & local guides

A trip to Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands is one of the world’s greatest natural history excursions, and ANS is collaborating with industry leader Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours for our third trip to this fascinating archipelago. A pre-trip visit to the Tandapaya region of mainland Ecuador (June 20-23) and a post-trip extension to Machu Picchu (July 1-7) are also planned. Registration is underway for the basic trip, as well as the pre-and post-trip journeys. Contact our travel staff for a copy of the itinerary and instructions for enrolling in the trip. Prices per person vary, depending on the size and location of cabins on the boat.



Photo by Stephanie Mason

### 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**.

## Washington’s Olympic Peninsula

August 12-20, 2017

Leaders: Mark Garland & Neal Fitzpatrick



Photo by Mark S. Garland

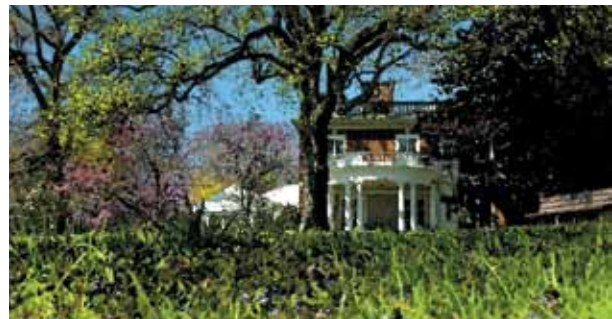
The Olympic Peninsula, located in the northwestern corner of Washington state, is an area of remarkable natural beauty and biological diversity. Much of the land is protected as Olympic National Park, where leader Mark Garland worked as a Park Naturalist early in his career. Habitats range from the wild rocky coast of the Pacific Ocean to mountain meadows filled with summer wildflowers, located beneath a mix of rocky and snow-capped

peaks. The mountain slopes and valleys are home to half a million acres of magnificent old growth forest, where many of the trees are over 200 feet tall and more than 8 feet in diameter. Come explore this diverse landscape at the peak of summer and learn about birds, butterflies, trees, wildflowers, marine life, and more. Detailed itinerary and costs will be available soon.

### Crowder-Messersmith Conservation Fund Annual Talk

Our 2016 talk is scheduled for Thursday, October 27 and will feature popular ANS travel and foray leader, Mark Garland.

Details in the next Naturalist Quarterly. For more info email [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org).



### Rent Woodend Sanctuary

[beatriz.engel@anshome.org](mailto:beatriz.engel@anshome.org)  
[anshome.org/rentals](http://anshome.org/rentals)

## Woodend Nature Sanctuary Master Plan Update

It's been an exciting and productive spring for the development of the Woodend Master Plan. With the discovery phase results published, and the plan now 50 percent complete, we are on track to have the 90 percent plan view in review this June. Be sure to mark your calendar for a big reveal of the final results at the ANS Annual Meeting this October 20, 2016.

ANS Executive Director Lisa Alexander continues to lead Master Plan walks around Woodend Nature Sanctuary to share with members, volunteers, friends and neighbors ideas being considered for the master plan. The walks take about an hour, and lead visitors through meadows, along woodland trails and along the perimeter of the property.

Photo of Lisa Alexander by Cathy Grubman



"I feel a big responsibility for planning for the future of our 40 acres at Woodend Sanctuary," said Alexander to a group on a recent Master Plan Walking Tour. "There are so many

opportunities here for habitat restoration and demonstrations of environmental best practices."

During the Master Plan Discovery Phase all stakeholders including members, staff, board, neighbors and the Woodend 2065 Council, agreed that a top priority is promotion of environmental education. Habitat restoration also leads as a top Master Plan principle. One challenge will be to maximize the number of people the property can serve with mission work while protecting the sense of Woodend as a peaceful oasis.

During her walking tours, Alexander talks about ways ANS can replace impervious surfaces, such as driveways and parking lots; create more welcoming and accessible pedestrian walkways; improve our wayfinding and interpretive signage; and add deer fencing so that we can restore the woodlands and habitats on the property, including the aging and ailing hemlock grove.

In April, Alexander, along with members of the Sanctuary Master Plan Committee, held two public meetings at Woodend to share information about the master plan discovery phase results with interested community members.

On the master plan Alexander notes: "Over the next 50 years, we look ahead to be more welcoming to new audiences. We want to keep the sanctuary free and open to the public. Most importantly, we want to use the sanctuary to teach people about the principles of environmental education and conservation that we believe in at ANS."

**Catch the next Master Plan Walking Tour, Wednesday, June 15 from 10-11 am. FREE, but registration is required. Also find the master plan discovery phase online at [anshome.org](http://anshome.org). The 50% master plan will be posted soon.**

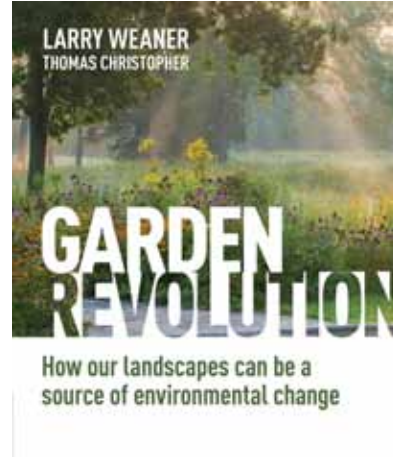
## You're Invited

### Native Wildflower Meadows: Let's Get Real

Tuesday, June 14 (7-8 pm)

Meadow walk from 6-7 pm

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD



Native wildflower meadows are increasingly popular, especially as alternatives to lawn. Unfortunately, planted meadows are all too often misunderstood, with inadequate planning and use of poorly adapted plants resulting in failure.

Better outcomes can be achieved when the patterns and processes of naturally occurring meadows are incorporated into all aspects of design, installation, and management. Join native meadow expert **Larry Weaner** to learn concrete, practical ways of creating dynamic and stunning long-lived meadows. Case studies of meadows for properties large and small will be shown.

Before the lecture, Larry will lead a tour of the Woodend Sanctuary meadow and sign copies of his recent book, *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can be a Source of Environmental Change* (Timber Press, 2016).

Light refreshments served. Please RSVP to [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org) or call 301-652-9188 x16 by June 10.

## ANS Needs You!

**SHOP VOLUNTEERS** Seeking friendly nature-lovers to volunteer in the Audubon Naturalist Shop. Come spend some time surrounded by field guides and kindred spirits. Morning, afternoon, weekday and weekend shifts available. Contact Alison Pearce at [alison.pearce@anshome.org](mailto:alison.pearce@anshome.org), or call Alison at 301-652-9188 x30.

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

## ANS Website is Getting a New Look

Thanks to the commitment of the ANS Board of Directors to invest in marketing and communications, we have an opportunity to comprehensively redesign the ANS website – anshome.org – this year.

We anticipate completing this exciting capital improvement project this summer and fall. As we design and develop a new online presence for ANS, our existing website will remain operational, so users should experience no disruption in service.

To kick off this project, we are asking ANS staff, members and any and all site visitors and users to share their feedback with us. The ANS Web Redesign survey is open now and we welcome your responses at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com//ANSWebRedesign>.

In April, ANS issued a request for proposals to identify a partner to work with us on the website redesign. We received nine proposals in response to our request. An internal staff team narrowed the field to two, who we met with personally for interviews. We are happy to report Seaberry Design & Communications is our selected consultant for the project.

Established in 2007, Seaberry Design and Communications has fast become one of the most important graphic design and communications firms in the DC metropolitan area. Intentionally modeled as a boutique firm, Seaberry specializes in information graphic design, reports, brochures, websites and brands. Seaberry's client list includes the DC Department of Health, George Washington University, and Emerging Scholars Program. Seaberry also sponsored and provided graphic design support for ANS's inaugural Black History Month celebration. Seaberry has put together an impressive team for our web redesign project with years of artistic, graphic design, photographic, web design and development, and online content development experience.

We're looking forward to working with Seaberry to launch a new site for ANS and keeping you posted on the project's progress.

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## 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).

## Spotlight on ANS Volunteer Joe Andrews

Joe Andrews is one of our superstar salad science volunteers. He starred in our salad science video and at a recent planting one of the students asked for his autograph! A former teacher and master naturalist, Joe excels at working with children of all ages and has been known to lead students in song as he helps them “put the baby seeds to bed” in the soil. He has a natural talent for teaching and uses a mix of humor, deep knowledge, and gentle authority to captivate his young audiences. He is up for anything including running out for extra lettuce when the crop at one elementary school under-performed. He is totally reliable and always a joy to work with. It is no surprise that this spring one of our most experienced salad science schools had one request before we came out to plant: “We want Joe!”



## You're Invited Celebrating Nearly 90 Years of Teaching

**Thursday, July 21 (7:30-9 pm)**

We think it's time for a party and we've found an excuse to host one. This year marks a combined total of 89 years of teaching in the Natural History Field Studies program by **Don Messersmith** and **Jane Huff**. This year marks the 53rd year for Messersmith. It's the 36th year of teaching for Jane Huff, who is planning to up that number in the years ahead.

Please save the date of **Thursday, July 21, from 7:30-9 pm here at Woodend** for your chance to celebrate this remarkable record of teaching talent. Our party will be a dessert potluck, so bring a post-dinner treat to share, if you can. There will be a time to share stories and tributes as well.

Please RSVP to Carol Hayes at [carol.hayes@ANShome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@ANShome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 by July 15.

## Social Buzz.....

On Facebook, March 21: Spring has sprung! A dragonfly larva (or naiad) discovered at the pond during the Nature Preschool's popular Parent-tot class on Friday.

- Steven Pearce - Very nice clubtail dragonfly larvae
- Kathy Olson Zendner - Love dragonflies, they are amazing!
- Linda Robertson -We need much more of this to save the world!!!
- David Israels - eeeeeeeeeek! bugs. hate 'em ;(



On Facebook, March 23: Thank you to Ryan Gunnison for undertaking his Eagle Scout project at Woodend. Ryan and his crew of volunteers built a habitat to encourage mason bees to nest at Woodend. These important pollinators are solitary nesters, unlike the European honey bee. Each female finds a nest tunnel and creates chambers in it with mud. She deposits an egg in each chamber, along with a supply of pollen and nectar. Fortunately, these fascinating animals rarely sting. Stop by Woodend to see this "bee hotel" in action!



- Doreen Gauthier Kelly - Now that's awesome! Tim and I should try this. The ends of our pergola are untreated wood and the mason bees love it!
- Jean Haverhill - I bought a small one and hung it in the south side to get sun in a tree; but this one is spectacular!
- Karen Wilhelm - Congratulations, Ryan. You've made a fantastic contribution to ANS and to the bees.
- Ric Simmons - Really nice, an inspiration
- Nancy Magnusson - Very cool!

On Twitter, April 26 - Danielle Brigida @starfocus Thanks to @ANStweets for this accomplishment. So honored to be trained by some of the best! #iamanaturalist

On Twitter, April 25 - Chincoteague NWR @ChincoteagueNWR Want to ID some Creek Critters you found in mid-Atlantic waters. @ANStweets has an app for that! <http://bit.ly/230PMx6> #mondaymotivation

On Twitter, April 22 - Roger Berliner @RogerBerliner Thanks to the efforts of @ANStweets & #FriendsOfTenMileCreek MoCo is exploring efficiently complete stormwater work

Join the conversation: [facebook.com/AudubonNaturalistSociety](https://www.facebook.com/AudubonNaturalistSociety) | @ANStweets on Twitter

## Audubon Naturalist Shop Reopened After Refresh

The Audubon Naturalist Shop is reopened after its refresh this past winter. If you haven't been to the shop lately, stop by. Find backyard bird feeding supplies, binoculars, field guides, gifts with a natural theme and more. While you're shopping, you'll notice a fresh coat of paint, new carpeting, improved lighting and better floor spacing. We're open Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday from noon to 5:00 pm. See you soon!



## MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS February-April 2016

### In memory of Laurel Aird

Bella & Harvey Tovey

### In memory of John Bazuin

Jane H. Ruppe

### In memory of Marcella Burris

Susan Fisher & Gary Schieneman

### In memory of Robert Dotson

Christine Waldmann

### In memory of Herbert Levitan

Susan Wittan

### In memory of Jack Meiners

Loree Trilling; Jacky Wershbaile

### In memory of Leslie Miller

Harriet Evin

### In memory of Patricia Miller

Sophia P. Evans

### In honor of June Eichner

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Lewis

### In honor of Cris Fleming

Anonymous; Brenda Ekwurzel; Molly & Dana Eldridge; Ellen Mann; Pearl Marks; Jim & Karen McManus; Barbara Nash; Charlie & Jody Schwarz; Tenley Wurglitz; Ginny & Bob Yacovissi

### In honor of Kent and Marcia Minichiello

Anonymous; Pearl Marks; Lee Miller; Alfred Minichiello & Julia Quiroz; Lee Minichiello & Lynne Seekamp; Barbara Nash; Nancy Voit

### In honor of Max Newman

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Ashe



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

*We would like to thank our following corporate sponsors for their recent generous in-kind donations to ANS:*

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## Master Naturalist Training at Woodend Sanctuary!

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

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

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

**DATES:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, September 29–November 10, 2016,  
9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Application-based admission limited to 18 participants.

If you'd like to learn more about the natural world and become a trained naturalist volunteer, apply online at [ANSHome.org/masternaturalist](http://ANSHome.org/masternaturalist). Questions? Call 301-652-9188 x30.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Michael H. Orfini, Senior Wealth Strategist  
800 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-303-1716 or [mho2@ntrs.com](mailto:mho2@ntrs.com)

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