

# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

SPRING 2015



Even with headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) enjoys a deep presence in Virginia. For the past 25 years, **Stella Koch** has been at the helm of ANS's conservation advocacy work in Virginia. After a remarkable career, Stella retired from ANS on February 13, 2015, but not before she left behind many miles of cleaner streams throughout Northern Virginia.

In 1989, Stella called then-Conservation Director Neal Fitzpatrick at ANS to see if she could help with Chesapeake Bay and land conservation issues in Northern Virginia. At the time, she was an ANS member and teaching biology in a small school in Washington, DC. Luckily for ANS, Neal welcomed Stella's help and the two started work.

"It's interesting to note that many of us started our work focused on the Chesapeake Bay and ended up at the stream in our backyards," remembers Stella.

One of Stella's earliest victories with ANS came in the mid-1990s when she led the fight to keep a road from running through Fairfax County's Huntley Meadows Park. During that same time, she worked in coalition with others to protect Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge from a public sewerage project. In those early days, Stella learned how important land use policies were to saving clean water.

The advocacy fight of the century for environmental groups in Virginia came in 1993 when the Walt Disney Company announced

[continued on page 4](#)

## ANS in Virginia



by Cathy Grubman, Kelli Holsendolph, and Stella Koch

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

**HEADQUARTERS**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

**STORE HOURS**

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

**GROUNDS HOURS**

Dawn to dusk

**ANS MEMBERSHIP**

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

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# NATURALIST QUARTERLY

ANShome.org Spring 2015

From the Director	3
ANS in Virginia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow <i>By Cathy Grubman, Kelli Holsendolph, and Stella Koch</i>	4
Conservation	6
Community Voices for Clean Water <i>By Cathy Grubman</i>	7
Children and Family Programs	8
Rust Classes/Programs	11
Adult Programs	12
CALENDAR	16
Water Quality Monitoring	22
Free Birding Trips	23
Natural History Field Studies	24
Nature Travel	26
ANS News	28
Q&A with Lola Oberman <i>By Cathy Grubman</i>	30
Registration Info	31

**COVER** Top left: Stella Koch with friends at her retirement party at Woodend Nature Sanctuary, February 12, 2015 (photo credit Carol Hayes). Top right: Fresh Air Kids at Rust Nature Sanctuary (photo credit Ellen McDougall). Bottom left: Girl Scout Brownie Troop from Brambleton at Rust (photo credit Ellen McDougall).



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK



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

## From the Director

I know you'll enjoy reading this issue because it spotlights the impressive advocacy work of Stella Koch in Virginia over the past quarter century. Her timeline of conservation victories highlights Audubon Naturalist Society's impact as a regional steward of clean water. The people who founded our organization as the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia in 1897 might not have imagined their city of 278,000 would grow into a bustling metropolis that nearly 6 million people call home. Nor would they have envisioned how much environmental stewardship would pivot on policy in places as densely developed as Tysons Corner. I have no doubt, however, that our founders would find Stella's work familiar because it embodies ANS's legendary history of dogged determination to secure good policy decisions that protect our environment for the long term.

It is an enormous job to serve our large regional audience as both an environmental advocacy leader and a premier provider of nature education. While our service area encompasses the entire DC metro region, much of our advocacy work focuses on the important environmental decisions made at the local county and city level – that's a lot of jurisdictions to impact! As we plan for the future, we'll need to implement creative solutions so that we can stretch our reach as the metro population grows. ANS will build on three key strengths in order to expand our influence for the future without breaking under the strain.

First, we will continue to focus on local streams as the center point for our clean water advocacy actions. Just as Stella Koch ensured the improvement of local streams at Tysons Corner during redevelopment by securing significant requirements for stormwater, ANS will continue to champion stream protection and restoration in Virginia, DC and Maryland. Every citizen in our region deserves to live in a community with a clean stream. ANS will work hard to ensure they have that opportunity and that cleaner streams become a reality.

## LETTERS

### Contact Us

We welcome letters from Naturalist Quarterly readers. Please send in your thoughts in response to any of the articles in the Quarterly. Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. Letters may be published in any medium. All letters become the property of ANS. To share your thoughts:

Send your letter traditional mail to  
Kelli Holsendolph  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
8940 Jones Mill Road  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Send your letter by email to [Kelli.Holsendolph@anshome.org](mailto:Kelli.Holsendolph@anshome.org).

Second, ANS will convene, train and partner with local organizations to empower them to become champions for clean water right in their own communities. We plan to host Watershed Advocacy Boot Camps in Virginia and Maryland to transfer lessons from our many advocacy wins (and losses) in order to expand and prepare a network of groups that can influence clean water policy in the region. In the same way we convened 30 partner organizations to achieve success in saving Ten Mile Creek, we'll leverage a trained watershed advocacy partner network to amplify our impact by protecting more area streams. Please let me know if you belong to a local group that might like to participate in a Watershed Advocacy Boot Camp with ANS.

Finally, ANS will use our excellent track record in education to grow the number of citizens engaged in stream stewardship. ANS will activate a partner distribution network to introduce people throughout the region to our citizen science smartphone app for testing stream health. Already we've had partner meetings and conversations with Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Muddy Branch Alliance and others to plan app roll out activities. Imagine hundreds of citizens in Virginia, Maryland and DC with their boots on, finding critters in neighborhood streams, and creating their own stream health reports. ANS will help those people put their feet onto a 'ladder of engagement' that will lead them to take personal action to protect local streams. Stay tuned for an upcoming invitation to put on your boots and join our growing group of citizen scientists.

You can count on ANS to train, organize and energize partner groups and individual citizens to take action so that we can realize a future of cleaner streams and a cleaner environment for all residents. By working together throughout the DC metro region, the timeline of our good work on behalf of the environment will stretch well into the future!



**STAFF UPDATES:** We sadly say goodbye to **Raj Sakaria**, ANS Property Manager, who resigned in January. During Raj's almost 20 year career with ANS, he led more than 163 successful Eagle Scout projects around the Woodend Sanctuary and kept the property running smoothly. We'll miss Raj's good-natured spirit. After 25 years of service to ANS, we also wish **Stella Koch** our Virginia Conservation Associate well in retirement. Stella has truly left her mark on ANS and, more importantly, she leaves behind cleaner streams and watersheds in Virginia. Read more in our feature article.

# ANS in Virginia: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

continued from cover

its plans to build a theme park on 3,000 acres near “hallowed ground”—Manassas National Battlefield Park. Stella was right there to represent the interests of ANS. In response to fierce advocacy led by the Piedmont Environmental Council, nationally prominent historians, ANS and others, Disney withdrew its proposal in June 1994.

Stella’s work on the Disney campaign helped to save Northern Virginia from as many as 2,281 homes, 1,340 hotel rooms, 1.96 million square feet of retail and commercial space and countless other sprawl development and strip malls that would have surely followed the theme park’s development. It was a big historic win. And from it, Stella and ANS recognized the need for smart growth and a new group to focus on how the region should grow and why.

Another hallmark of Stella’s career with ANS in Virginia has been in protecting the Potomac River and drinking water supplies. The Potomac is the major source of drinking water

for the Washington, DC region. Three major utilities withdraw on average 460 million gallons a day from the Potomac. Suburban Maryland and Virginia have alternative reservoirs for drinking water. But for the Washington Aqueduct, which supplies DC, Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, the Potomac is the sole source of drinking water.

The lowest flow on record from the Potomac River was 388 million gallons a day in September 1966. Although there is a low flow agreement dating back to 1981 between the water utilities to protect the biology of the Potomac and prevent withdrawal of all water during a period of drought, it is scientifically flawed. Thanks to Stella’s advocacy, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin re-examined the science behind this low flow agreement. Stella’s work also netted a credible paper issued in 2003 by a panel of eminent scientists stating there is inadequate science to support the present low flow agreement.

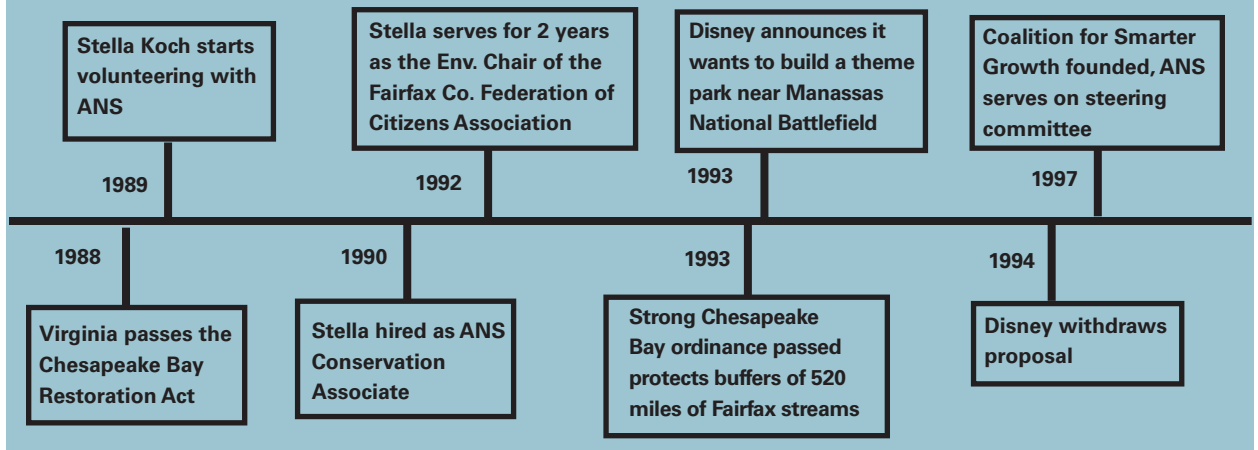
Work on the Potomac River low flow issue remains for ANS, but it can continue thanks to a legacy Stella leaves.

You can’t talk about ANS, Stella and Virginia without mentioning Tysons Corner. In 2004, Tysons Corner was the 12<sup>th</sup> largest employment center in the nation. It is one of the largest retail centers in the region with almost six million square feet of space and two major regional malls. It has more real estate devoted to cars than people. Yet, because of its elevation Tysons is the headwaters for four county streams, and more than 70 percent of the built environment had no stormwater management.



*Stella joins the Coalition for Smarter Growth to lead a walk of Tysons Corner, September 2013.*

## 25 Years of ANS Advocacy in Northern Virginia



Through her work on the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force, Stella was able to win a plan and implementation process for the redevelopment of Tysons to include metro stops, bus systems, sidewalks, trails and bike paths; reduced parking spaces; a walkable, livable community, with a variety of housing options; a park and green space system with connected trails through Tysons and its stream valley parks; and rigorous stormwater requirements.

“It has been a fun journey...it is not over...and thanks to everyone who has been a part of it with me...you all really made it happen,” said Koch.

### Reaching the Next Generation of Nature Stewards in Virginia

ANS also runs a robust environmental education program in Virginia through Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg and Broadlands Nature Center in Ashburn.

One of the signature programs at Rust Nature Sanctuary is Fresh Air Kids, developed and taught by ANS Environmental Education Program Manager **Susanne Ortmann**. The class is modeled after Denmark’s forest preschools, where children roam freely outside and foster creativity through nature activities. For Fresh Air Kids, Rust offers 68 acres of nature trails, meadows, an oak-hickory forest, a pine forest, a pond, and a vernal pool.

Each week the Fresh Air Kids class examines a different subject, all based on children’s inherent curiosity about

the world. Activities involve crafts, songs, books, and nature journaling, but the main focus is hiking out of doors—regardless of weather.

“Fresh Air Kids go outside as much as possible,” said Ortmann. “We don’t let the weather keep us down.”

Care for the environment is also an on-going theme, along with emphasizing the “big picture” of land management. Streams flow to rivers; birds need greenways to fly; littering harms the environment.

Fresh Air Kids meets on Fridays for 8 weeks seasonally (winter, spring and fall) from 10-11:30 am. Rust also offers Unplug and Play after school programs, programs for scouts and seasonal programs with NOVA Parks. *For a complete listing of Rust programs this spring, see page 11.*

Broadlands Nature Center is located just south of the Dulles Greenway at 21907 Claiborne Parkway. ANS and the Broadlands Homeowners Association (HOA) enjoy a partnership to provide nature programs for Broadlands residents (3,852 households) and the wider community. The Nature Center is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and select Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

“I became an ANS naturalist because I believe kids grow better outside,” said **Jessica Bukowinski**, ANS Naturalist, Broadlands Nature Center. “My area of expertise is helping children find wonder in the natural world around them, and that

is what I aspire to do with Nature Center visitors and those who participate in our programs.”

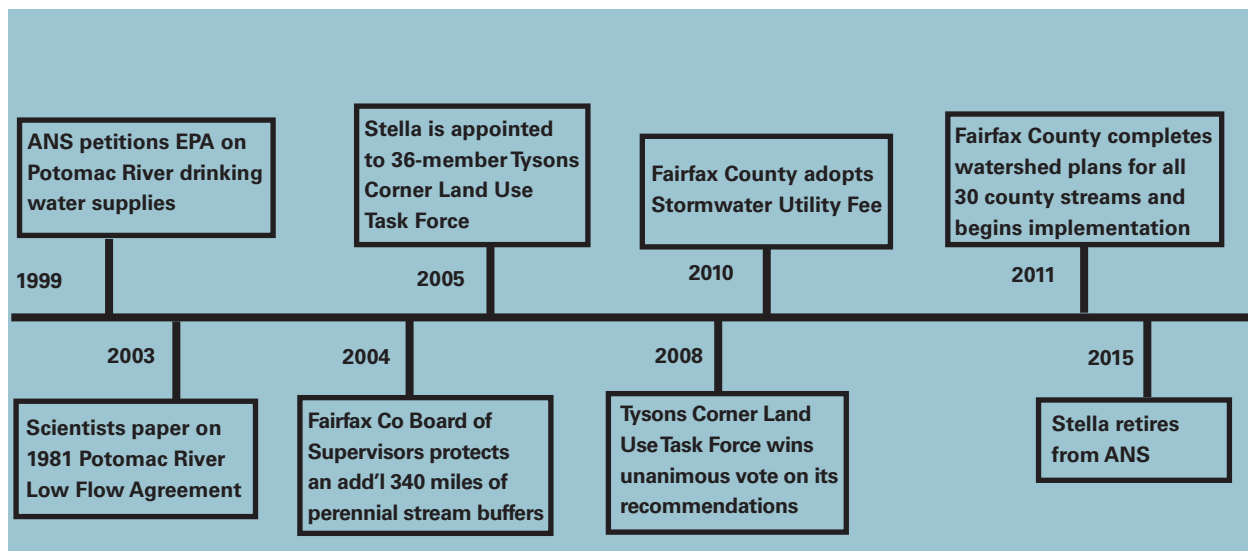
Some of the programs Broadlands offers its littlest naturalists include Wee Naturalist on Tuesdays for ages 2 to 4 with a caregiver; Nature Club, two Wednesdays a month for Kindergarteners; and Summer Camps for pre-K through fourth grade.

“I love that the Broadlands HOA has created a place where residents of all ages can foster their love of nature even when inside, and I feel honored to be one of its stewards,” added Bukowinski.

Broadlands offers naturalist-led walks for all ages two Wednesday mornings per month. There are also family programs on the second Saturday of each month at the Nature Center and volunteer opportunities for children, teens and adults to learn how to care for the Nature Center’s education animals. You can have your birthday party, scout program or other custom event at Broadlands. Learn more at [anshome.org/Broadlands](http://anshome.org/Broadlands).



*Falcor the gecko housed at the Broadlands Nature Center.*



# Conservation

## 35th Annual Audubon Naturalist Society

# Bloomin' Birdathon

April 22, 2015 through May 25, 2015

**Our biggest fundraising event of the year. | How many wildflowers or birds can you count in 24-hours? | Get sponsors or donate to support ANS's work.**

Get involved at [anshome.org/Birdathon](http://anshome.org/Birdathon)

### More Ways to Participate

**New! Bird House Build Off Contest |**

April 22 - May 25 | Can you build the best nest? Enter the contest. Vote for the winners.

**A Big Sit for ANS |** April 29 (Rain date: Tuesday, May 5) | 10:00 am – 12:00 noon | Get your Birdathon count done with other beginner and novice birders at Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

**Bird Eggstravaganza! |** May 3 (Rain date: Sunday, May 17) | 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm | Hunt for "bird eggs" hidden around Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

**The Big Year (PG) Screening |** May 8 | 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm | Enjoy the movie The Big Year and support ANS all at the same time!

All Bloomin' Birdathon donations and participation fees are tax-deductible. All proceeds from the Bloomin' Birdathon go directly to support ANS's environmental education and conservation programs. Thank you for your support.

### Enter Sense of Wonder Contest Today!



The Rachel Carson Landmark Alliance's Intergenerational Sense of Wonder/ Sense of the Wild Contest for 2015 is open now through **June 10, 2015--the deadline for entries.**

At least 2 generations come together to work on creating a poem, photography, songs, essays, or drawings expressing the theme of the SENSE OF WONDER by Rachel Carson.

Find contest details and information at [RachelCarsonLandmarkAlliance.org](http://RachelCarsonLandmarkAlliance.org).

## ANS Joins Safe Grow Montgomery to Fight for Pesticide-Free Lawns

ANS Conservation Program Director Diane Cameron joined members of the Safe Grow Montgomery Coalition in mid-February to rally support for the Council's Healthy Lawns Bill 52-14. Harmful pesticides used on lawns and turf can expose neighbors, communities and the environment. They drift, pollute our air, run-off into our waterways and drinking water source, and find their way into our homes. Bill 52-14 calls for restrictions in the non-essential use of certain lawn pesticides in Montgomery County - those deemed harmful to human health.

February 12 was the County Council's last public hearing on the bill before it moves into committee. During the hearing the opposition to the bill brought in lawn care workers and focused arguments on farmers, property rights and trust for Environmental Protection Agency standards. The Safe Grow Montgomery Coalition and other bill supporters matched the opposition's showing.

Now, the Healthy Lawns Bill 52-14 is with the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment (T&E) committee, chaired by Councilmember Roger Berliner and including Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and Tom Hucker. The coalition is calling on supporters to keep up the pressure by asking members of the T&E committee, particularly Chair Berliner, to support a strong Healthy Lawns Bill 52-14. At the end of the public hearing Berliner committed to not letting the bill die in his committee. But we need a strong Healthy Lawns Bill to come out of his committee if we are to protect clean water.

Take action today on Healthy Lawns Bill 52-14 from the Safe Grow Montgomery Coalition site at [SafeGrowMontgomery.org](http://SafeGrowMontgomery.org).



## Community Voices for Clean Water

By Cathy Grubman

It takes a village to solve stormwater management problems and the village was well represented at a recent Clean Water Town Hall meeting. The meeting was held December 9, 2014, at the Silver Spring Civic Center. A similar town hall was held in Prince George's County, December 4.

ANS Conservation Director Diane Cameron served as the event's emcee, which included speakers: State Senator Jamie Raskin, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection Division (DEP) Chief Steve Shofar, Secretary of the Montgomery County Civic Federation Danila Sheveiko, Latino Environmental Awareness and Direction (LEAD) co-founder Maria Rosa Watson, and Friends of Sligo Creek President Kit Gage. The event was sponsored by the Sierra Club in partnership with ANS, Stormwater Partners Network, Anacostia Watershed Society and Clean Water Action.

More than 100 people attended, some leading advocates for clean water, others joining the discussion about stormwater runoff and its effects for the first time.

Stormwater runoff (also called polluted runoff) carries chemicals, trash and pollutants—including car oil, fertilizers, weed killer, pet waste and sewage—into our rivers and streams. This polluted runoff can also cause erosion and physical damage to streams, flood roads, homes and businesses. Poor water quality endangers fish and risks human health.

"Stormwater runoff is the fastest rising contributor to Chesapeake Bay pollution," said Senator Raskin, who since 2007 has been a strong environmental leader in protecting Maryland's waterways. "When we argue for environmental protection [in Annapolis], colleagues say 'you are so liberal.' We are actually conservatives—we are trying to conserve the land, water and air."

Looking locally, Steve Shofar spoke about how DEP is working to protect waterways. The county "oversees over 4,000 paved acres to be treated in order to reduce runoff," said Shofar. It's one of the largest stormwater management programs in the country, and one with a simple philosophy: "Slow it down, spread it out, and soak it in."

Shofar also referenced the Water Quality Protection Charge, sometimes called the Rain Tax. This funding mechanism is based on how much hard, paved surfaces each landowner owns. The fund is part of the Montgomery County property tax bill and pays for county services to better manage and eliminate polluted runoff.

The charge was first administered in 2002; in 2012, a state law required all large Maryland counties to have a charge. According to Shofar, Montgomery County has spent approximately \$51 million in the last four years on watershed restoration, including stormwater facility retrofits, environmental site design and stream restoration. The county has a watershed restoration capital budget of approximately \$363 million for the next 6 years.

Danila Sheveiko pointed out that green construction, which includes smart stormwater practices such as green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavers, may be more costly than "gray" construction, but "that's like comparing apples to oranges." Green construction has many more long-term benefits.

"Green infrastructure is an investment in the future," Sheveiko said. "It makes business sense; we can do this here." He showed illustrations of green buildings that were not only pleasing to look at but practical and energy-efficient.

Maria Rosa Watson addressed inspiring the Latino community to take action. Through education and hands-on projects such as building rain barrels, LEAD has been working since 2008 to help make change. Educating kids is a big part of LEAD's mission.

"Each of us can do something little to make a difference," Watson said.

Kit Gage agreed. She illustrated how her neighborhood—Forest Estates in Silver Spring—worked with county government through the Green Streets program to build Low Impact Development (LID) features that reduce and filter rainfall. This included LID-engineered stormwater drain areas, permeable pavers in parking areas, rain gardens, bioretention gardens, and bioswales. The project took five years from start to finish, but it was worth it.

"You can do individual yard projects, or get your whole neighborhood on board. It's a community approach," Gage said.

Councilmember Marc Elrich addressed the audience as well: "People power is really important. [And so is science.] We have to become the sources of knowledge to make changes."

The evening ended with a lively question and answer—"direct democracy," coined Cameron. Topics varied from how to bring a Green Streets program to one's community to pesticide use in our lawns to the challenges the county faces fulfilling its MS4 permit.

An MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) is a permit given to counties that require it to operate and maintain its stormwater management infrastructure including storm drains and stormwater facilities.

"It's a five year permit," said Shofar. "The County received its third permit in 2010 and the permit term will end on February 15, 2015."

The permit requires Montgomery County to retrofit (upgrade or build) stormwater management systems to treat polluted runoff from 20 percent of the impervious surfaces not currently treated.

"Anyone who owns land or helps influence how land is managed can become part of the solution," reiterated Cameron. "Whether businesses, government or individual homeowners, we are looking at maximum participation. We need to be both stewards and advocates."



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK

# 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!

## Nature Birthday Parties

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

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

BOOK ONLINE!

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

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



ANS EE photo

## Audubon Afterschool MD Nature Clubs

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

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

## School's Out Nature Camp

*On one-day holidays!*

### Woodend Nature Sanctuary

Friday, March 27

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Members \$70 per day

Nonmembers \$80 per day

Mail/fax in form found on [anshome.org](http://anshome.org) to register.

### Grades K-5: Nature Adventures

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

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

Earn SSL hours while learning about the natural environment. The day focuses on an environmental theme with 4 hours of service learning projects and tons of nature fun.

**FREE!**

## Weekend Walks in the Woods!



AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Learning people with nature for 80 years



- 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



## 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).



## Spring Break Camp

Monday, April 6-Friday, April 10  
(8:30 am-3 pm)  
Members \$331;  
Nonmembers \$416  
Extended camp 3-6 pm (\$100)

REGISTER  
ONLINE!

## Signs of Spring (Grades K-5)

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

## Eco Team (Grades 6-9)

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

Photo by Janet Rivers



The MAEOE conference was fantastic this year. Seven of our ANS staff (see picture at left) spent a weekend in Ocean City learning about natural history, education techniques, environmental hot topics and were able to connect with educators for NASA,

MCPS, Spotswood Farm, Irvine Nature Center, and Smith Outdoor Education Center. Workshops on human impacts on the environment, climate change, natural history of Maryland spiders, nature journaling, diversity and neuroscience and nature.

Our school programs staff focused on climate change and human ecology workshops in light of our new weather and climate lesson plans. The National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation presented research on public reactions to different metaphors to explain the causes of climate change. The workshop then discussed how to pivot conversations away from political debates and scientific misconceptions and towards shared values and positive actions that the public can take. We are looking forward to incorporating these messages into our programs.

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

53rd Season

SENIOR PROGRAM (Ages 11-15)

Two-week sessions

June 21 - July 4

July 7 - July 21

July 28 - August 10

JUNIOR PROGRAM (Ages 8 -10) - FULL

One week ♦ August 16 - 22

ADULT WEEKEND (Ages 21+)

One weekend ♦ July 24 - 26

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BCWS 3700 Burgundy Rd., Alexandria, VA 22303

burgundycenter.org ♦ 703-842-0470



## ANS Professional Development this Winter

The ANS education staff attended the Maryland Association of Environment and Outdoor Educators Annual (MAEOE) conference and the SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training in February on the Eastern Shore.

## Summer Camp 2015

Space available!

Pre-K/K PM camps and high school camps have the most availability. Register at [www.anshome.org/camp](http://www.anshome.org/camp).

Want to see what's available? Start the registration process and after you pick your child's grade you will see what camps have space.

Confirmation packets will be emailed 3 weeks before your child's start date of camp.

Questions? Call 301-652-9188 x16 or email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).



Photo by Samantha Roth

James "Kingfisher" Robey and other ANS environmental education staff took part in the SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training in February on the Eastern Shore. Camp staff learned to treat common injuries on the trail such as ankle, arm or knee sprains, heat exhaustion, and hypothermia as well as more serious situations including assessing potential head and spine injury, transport for nonambulatory patients, and burns. The first aid is designed for outdoor situations an hour away from hospital or ambulance care. This training prepares our staff for our camping and backpacking programs this summer.



The Audubon Nature Preschool offers programs for children ages 2½ to 5 years. Children benefit from exploring the natural surroundings of the 40-acre sanctuary, which offer endless opportunities for investigation and discovery.

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

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

### Drop-off Programs

#### 4-Day AM and PM Classes

3½–5 year olds

Mondays through Thursdays

Morning program, 8:45-11:45 am

Afternoon program, 12:45-3:15 pm

### Parent and Child Programs

#### Tagalong Thursdays

4 years old and younger

Sibling discount eligible

Thursdays, 9:30-11 am

#### Parent-Tot Fridays

2½–3½ years old

Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am

#### QUESTIONS?

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

**APPLY ONLINE**  
[ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL](http://ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL)



ANS EE photo

## Audubon Environmental Science Programs

Explore nature with your students!

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

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

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

### Stone and Holt Weeks Scholarship

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

Spring 2015 Scholarship Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2015

# Rust / Northern Virginia



**RUST  
NATURE  
SANCTUARY**

**KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE**

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

## Ponds Awaken to Spring

Friday, April 10 (6:30-8:30 pm)  
Inclement weather date, Sunday, April 12  
All ages; Cost: \$7 per person

The wintering ponds at Rust Sanctuary are awakening to the Spring Season. Enjoy close encounters with wildlife such as salamanders, frogs, and toads. Come explore the magical sights and sounds that surround this 68 acre nature sanctuary. Our adventure will end with a tasty treat of marshmallows around a warm campfire. Please dress for the weather, hiking boots are highly recommended, headlamps and field equipment provided. Limited to 15 participants. To register email [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org). Please mail checks made payable to ANS to Rust Sanctuary, 802 Children's Center Rd., Leesburg, VA 20175.

## Unplug and Play Afterschool Programs

The Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, VA is excited to announce our revitalized afterschool program, Unplug and Play! Combining science education and physical activity, ANS has created a program to get kids outdoors to discover their natural world. Our qualified naturalists will run a six-week session of outdoor games, hikes, and eco-crafts, with a different theme each week. Themes include migration, plant basics, mammals, and animal habitats. Typical hours for our afterschool program are 2:45-3:45 pm. Naturalists are available to teach Monday-Friday, one day per week for six weeks. To run the program, the cost is \$65 per student for 6 weeks. ANS requires a minimum of eight students. Email [Ellen McDougall emcdougall@anshome.org](mailto:emcdougall@anshome.org) for more information and to book your school's afterschool club!

## Scout Programs

**We can meet your badge needs!**

ANS Nature Programs for Scouts are offered 7 days a week from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. Each program is 1 to 1.5 hours long. The cost is \$7.75 per scout with a \$124 minimum. Come to the Rust Nature Sanctuary for your program or we'll come to you! For more information call [Ellen McDougall](mailto:Ellen McDougall) at 703-669-0000 or email [emcdougall@anshome.org](mailto:emcdougall@anshome.org).

## 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, April 10-May 29 (10-11:30 am)**  
**Cost: \$75 (siblings 21 months and older \$60, siblings under 21 months free).**

To register email [Susanne Ortmann](mailto:Susanne Ortmann) at [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org). 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.

**Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA**  
**Mondays, May 4, 11, 18 and June 1 (10-11am)**  
**Cost: \$42 (Siblings 21 months and older \$35, siblings under 21 months free)**

To register please email [Ellen McDougall](mailto:Ellen McDougall) at [emcdougall@anshome.org](mailto:emcdougall@anshome.org). 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.



## Nature Birthday Parties

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

Contact [Ellen McDougall](mailto:Ellen McDougall) for more information: [emcdougall@anshome.org](mailto:emcdougall@anshome.org) or 703-669-0000.

# Adult Programs

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

## 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.
- Have a credit postcard? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x 16 to hear options.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).

### Tour the Washington Aqueduct

Saturday, March 7 (8:30-10:30 am)  
 Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick & US Army  
 Corps of Engineers staff  
 Free, but registration required.

**FULL**

### Winter Walk Along the Canal

Wednesday, March 11 (10 am-12:30 pm)  
 Great Falls, MD  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

**ALMOST FULL**

Almost full, see website for description and to register.

### Woodcock Watch

Saturday, March 7 (5:15-7:15 pm)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

### Winter Hike in the Mountains

Saturday, March 14 (full day hike)  
 Shenandoah National Park, VA (5.2 mi)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

**ALMOST FULL**

Almost full, see website for description and to register

### Late Winter Birding Trek in Prince William County

Sunday, March 8 (8 am-3 pm)  
 Leader: Paul Pisano  
 Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

With winter winding down, we'll bundle up for one last foray to wetlands and woodlands in Prince William County, VA in search of lingering waterfowl, resident birds, and some of the first returning migrants. We'll plan to spend the first half of our day at Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge near Woodbridge, VA before heading downriver to our final destination at Leesylvania State Park along the Potomac River.

### Beginning Birding

Thursday, March 19 (7:30-9:30 pm)  
 Sunday, March 22 (8 am-2 pm)  
 Leader: Mark England  
 Members \$46; nonmembers \$64  
 Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

## Botanical Gems in Montgomery County: Northwest Branch Park

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

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Budbreak at Carderock

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

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Elizabeth Rives

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Geology at the National Zoo

Sunday, March 29 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: April 1 - Carderock - **FULL**

Section B: April 15 - Widewater - **ALMOST FULL**

Section C: April 29 - Swain's Lock - **FULL**

Section D: May 6 - Riley's Lock - **ALMOST FULL**

Section E: May 20 - Violettes Lock - **FULL**

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$85/\$119

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

## Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch

Saturday, April 4 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Neal Fitzpatrick

Free, but registration required.

Full-register for waitlist online.

**FULL**

## Spring in the Parks

(8 am-12:30 pm)

A: Saturday, April 4 - Watkins Regional Park, MD

B: Sunday, April 26 - Mason Neck NWR, VA

C: Saturday, May 16 - Rock Creek Park, DC

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$65; nonmembers \$82

Join our Senior Naturalist for these broad-based nature explorations of close-by parks rich in natural history. We'll walk between 2-3 miles on natural surface trails, with some uphill and downhill, in a search for spring wildflowers and seasonal wildlife activity, including birds, butterflies, and amphibians. Our first destination visits rich woodland with towering trees near Largo, MD. On our next expedition, we'll explore bottomland forest near Occoquan, Va. As the pulse of spring change slows down and the woods stand green, we'll explore the surprisingly wild urban forest of Rock Creek Park in the District.



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

## Introduction to Wildflower ID

Thursday, April 9 (7:30-9:30 pm)  
 Saturday, April 11 (3/4 day field trip)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Members \$46; nonmembers \$64  
 Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

## Spring Wildflowers of the Potomac River Gorge

Fridays (10 am-12:30 pm)  
 Walk A: April 10 - Carderock, MD  
 Walk B: April 17 - Turkey Run Park, VA  
 Walk C: April 24 - Great Falls, MD  
 Leader: Cris Fleming  
 Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28  
 Entire series \$54/\$76

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

## Geology of Harpers Ferry

Saturday, April 11 (10 am-3 pm)  
 Leader: Joe Marx  
 Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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

## A Year at Boundary Bridge

Saturdays (9 am-2 pm)  
 Section B: April 11  
 Section C: June 27  
 Section D: November 7  
 Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley  
 Each walk members \$30; nonmembers \$42  
 Entire series \$102/\$143

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

## Walk Among the Giants

B: Sunday, April 12 (8-11:30 am)  
 C: Saturday, July 25 (7:30-11 am)  
 D: Sunday, October 25 (8-11:30 am)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason  
 Each walk: members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Introduction to the Geology of the Mid-Atlantic

Thursday, April 16 (7:30-9:30 pm)  
 Leader: Joe Marx  
 Free, but registration required.

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

## Evening on the Canal

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

## Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

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

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

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

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

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

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series members \$102; nonmembers \$145

Immerse yourself in the phenomenon of spring migration with this series of short bird walks at nearby parks. These walks are designed for beginning and intermediate birders for whom the spring migration can sometimes be overwhelming. On each walk we'll search for songbirds by sight and sound. We'll discuss the arrival sequence of spring migrants, practice spotting them in the forest, and learn the songs of many species.

## Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Little Bennett Park

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

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

## Spring Butterflies of Unique Southern Maryland Habitats

Sunday, April 19 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

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

## Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

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

Summer Walk: Wednesday, July 19 (10 am-Noon)

Fall Walk: Wednesday, October 21 (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.

## River Herring Return to Rock Creek

**FULL**

Saturday, April 25 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman

Free, but registration required.

## Know Your Invasive Plants

Saturday, May 16 (9:30 am-12 pm)

See page 22 for information on this free workshop.

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Mar 7	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24	Apr 22	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	15
"	8:30 am	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22	Apr 23	7 pm	Author Event: Birds of a Feather		32
"	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8	Apr 24	10 am	Spring Wildflowers of the Pot Riv Gorge	Y	14
"	9:30 am	Tour the Washington Aqueduct		12	Apr 25	7:30 am	Rock Creek Park bird walk		23
"	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	Y	12	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24
Mar 8	8 am	Late Winter Birding Trek in Prince William	Y	12	"	9 am	River Herring Return to Rock Creek		15
Mar 9	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22	Apr 26	7 am	Spring Early Birds B	Y	15
Mar 10	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23	"	8 am	Spring in the Parks B	Y	13
Mar 11	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal D	Y	12	"	9 am	Blair Native Plant Garden Walk	Y	web
Mar 12	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23	Apr 29	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22	"	10 am	A Big Sit for ANS	Y	6
Mar 14	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24	"	"	Spring Saunter Along the Canal C	Y	13
"	"	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23	"	7 pm	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22
"	full day	Winter Hike in the Mountain C	Y	12	May 1	8 am	Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac	Y	18
Mar 17	5 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow bird walk		23	May 2	7 am	Blue Mash Nature Trail bird walk		23
Mar 19	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream		22	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24
"	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	12	"	9 am	Binoculars Boot Camp		web
Mar 21	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24	"	"	Free Family Program at Woodend		8
Mar 22	10 am	Botanical Gems: Northwest Branch Park	Y	13	"	"	Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers	Y	18
Mar 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	"	9:30 am	Intro to WQM field workshop		22
Mar 27	8:30 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	8	"	10 am	Geology of Shenandoah Park North	Y	18
Mar 28	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24	May 3	7 am	Spring Early Birds C	Y	15
Mar 29	9:30 am	Budbreak at Carderock	Y	13	"	12 pm	Bird Eggstravaganza!	Y	6
"	10 am	Geology at the National Zoo	Y	13	May 4	8 am	Springtime in West Virginia	Y	18
Apr 1	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal A	Y	13	"	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian Park begins	Y	11
Apr 4	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24	May 6	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal D	Y	13
"	"	Spring in the Parks A	Y	13	"	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Apr 4	9 am	Free Family Program at Woodend		8	May 7	7 pm	Bird ID Series: Spring Warblers	Y	18
"	"	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges		13	"	"	Window into the World of Fungi		18
Apr 6	8:30 am	Spring Break Camp	Y	9	May 8	6:30 pm	"The Big Year" screening	Y	6
"	7 pm	Reptiles and Amphibians begins	Y	24	May 9	7 am	Spring Early Birds D	Y	15
"	"	Intro to Ornithology begins	Y	24	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24
Apr 7	8 am	Pennyfield bird walk		23	"	full day	Spring Hike on the AT Trail	Y	18
"	7 pm	Biodiversity begins	Y	25	May 10	7 am	C&O Canal, MD bird walk		23
"	"	Biology for Naturalists begins	Y	25	"	8:30 am	Appalachian Spring	Y	19
Apr 8	6 pm	The Living Soil begins	Y	25	May 12	11 am	Blair Native Plant Garden Walk/Count	Y	web
"	7 pm	Freshwater Ecosystems begins	Y	25	May 13	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22
Apr 9	7:30 pm	Intro to Wildflower ID	Y	14	May 16	8 am	Spring in the Parks C	Y	13
Apr 10	10 am	Spring Wildflowers of the Pot Riv Gorge	Y	14	"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24
"	"	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	11	"	9 am	Spring Woods of Prince William Park	Y	19
"	6:30 pm	Ponds Awaken to Spring at Rust	Y	11	"	9:30 am	KnowYour Invasive Plants		22
Apr 11	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		24	May 17	7 am	Spring Early Birds E	Y	15
"	9 am	A Year at Boundary Bridge A	Y	14	"	10 am	Spring Hike on Sugarloaf Mountain	Y	19
"	10 am	Geology of Harpers Ferry	Y	14	"	"	Late Spring Wildflowers of Gunpowder	Y	19
Apr 12	8 am	Walk Among the Giants B	Y	14	May 19	7:30 pm	Intro to Bird ID by Voice	Y	19
Apr 15	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal B	Y	13	May 20	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal E	Y	13
Apr 16	7:30 pm	Intro to the Geology of the Mid-Atlantic		14	"	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22

Y = Fee-based program

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

## Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac

Friday, May 1 (8 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

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

## The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, May 2 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

They're lovely to behold. But their beauty belies the scrappy, survival strategies of our region's short-lived spring wildflowers. Coping with cold temperatures, they must race to complete their flowering and fruiting cycles before the brief window of spring sunlight gets shut out by the unfolding forest canopy. NHFS Spring Flower instructor Sujata Roy will spill some of their secrets in an exploration along the C&O Canal at Great Falls, MD.

## Geology of Shenandoah Park North

Saturday, May 2 (10 am-5 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Two crossroads cut Virginia's Shenandoah National Park into three sections, each 30-40 miles long. Our program will be a car tour of the geology of the northern section, from Front Royal to Thornton Gap. As we travel along Skyline Drive, we'll stop six or seven times at overlooks and trailheads to examine the outcrops, stonewalls, panoramas, and other features close at hand. *Note: at our stops, we will do short hikes which may include uphill and/or downhill hiking over uneven terrain to rock exposures and/or other nearby sites of interest.*

## Springtime in West Virginia

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

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$110; nonmembers \$154

**FULL**

Full, see website for description and to register for waitlist.

## Bird ID Series: Spring Warblers

Thursday, May 7 (7-9 pm)

Sunday, May 10 (7 am-1 pm)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

More than 30 species of warblers pass through the Mid-Atlantic during spring migration – but finding and properly identifying these active songbirds can be a real challenge. We'll use slides and recorded warbler songs for the Thursday lecture. On Sunday we'll start early and visit several spots along the C&O Canal, where we'll hope to hear and see a wide variety of warblers.

## Window into the World of Fungi

Thursday, May 7 (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.

## Spring on the Appalachian Trail

Saturday, May 9 (full day hike)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

One of the best ways to explore the seasonal richness in our region's along the Appalachian Trail. Our Senior Naturalist leads this search for spring blooms, butterflies, and breeding bird activity amongst the rocky terrain of Maryland's South Mountain. Beginning at Gathland State Park, the former estate of a Civil War correspondent, we'll hike to the summit of Lamb's Knoll before ending the day at Fox Gap. *We'll cover 6 miles on this moderately strenuous uphill/downhill hike on trails that will be rocky and uneven. We'll stop to observe natural phenomena, but will keep a pace necessary to cover the distance stated.*

### 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).

## Appalachian Spring

Sunday, May 10 (8:30 am-3 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Spring rains, warming temperatures, and longer hours of daylight ignite a great burst of life in the valleys and ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. Nowhere is this more evident than at the Thompson Wildlife Management Area in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Linden, VA, a wildlife reserve that is well known for its botanical diversity. Our field trip will focus on the rich wildflower display, as well as spring migrants, butterflies, and other wildlife. *We'll cover around 3 miles at a leisurely pace, but there will be uphill and downhill walking on rocks and uneven trails.*

## Spring Woods of Prince William Forest Park

Saturday, May 16 (9 am-12:30pm)

Leader: Elizabeth Rives

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

With 15,000 acres of forest, Prince William Forest Park protects the largest Piedmont forest in the National Park Service and the largest green space in the DC-metro area. Here plants at their northern-and-southernmost limits meet and overlap, as do species from both Coastal Plain and Piedmont. The leader of our winter visit here returns for a late spring walk to look for seasonal wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. Mountain Laurel should be in bloom along our 2-3 mile hike over sloping terrain on natural surface trails. Bring along a bag lunch to enjoy with the leader after the walk. Note: \$5 per car entrance fee. Carpooling will be encouraged and facilitated.

## Spring Hike on Sugarloaf Mountain

Sunday, May 17 (10 am-3 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Join Sugarloaf author Melanie Choukas-Bradley and artist Tina Thieme Brown for an outing devoted to the botany, wildlife, geology, and history of Sugarloaf Mountain, a monadnock in the rural Piedmont northwest of Washington, D.C. The 1.5-2.5 mile hike, with some uphill and downhill on rocky terrain, is timed to coincide with the flowering of many woodland plants, including mountain laurel, pinxter, fringe-tree, Canada mayflower, several violet species, and possibly one or more orchids. Bring binoculars to look for Wood Thrushes, Worm-eating Warblers, Ravens, and other bird species. Tina will give a brief demonstration on illustrating plants in the field during our lunch break.

## Late Spring Wildflowers of Gunpowder Falls State Park: Hereford Area

Sunday, May 17 (10 am-3:30 pm)

Leader: Dwight Johnson

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Our leader describes this protected area in Central Baltimore County as the "best walk in the Maryland Piedmont." We'll explore several woodland types in our search for wildflowers such as Nodding Trillium and Miterwort, among others, but all manner of spring botanical interest will be our focus. We'll make frequent stops to study plants on our walk of around 2 miles along a narrow woodland trail, with a couple of stream crossings.

## Introduction to Bird ID by Voice

Tuesday, May 19 (7:30-9 pm)

Thursday, May 21 (7:30-9 pm)

Saturday, May 23 (7 am-Noon)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

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

## Spring Shorebird Migration on the Delaware Bay

Wednesday, May 27 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, May 30 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Each year in May, horseshoe crabs migrate to the beaches of Delaware Bay to mate and lay their eggs. During the same time period, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds, en route to summer breeding grounds, stop at the Bay to feast and refuel on the concentrated number of horseshoe crab eggs. At Thursday's lecture, we will discuss shorebird migration and use slides to help ID some of the most common shorebirds in our region. Saturday's field trip will take us to the Bay, where we will hope to see and ID a variety of shorebirds.



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK

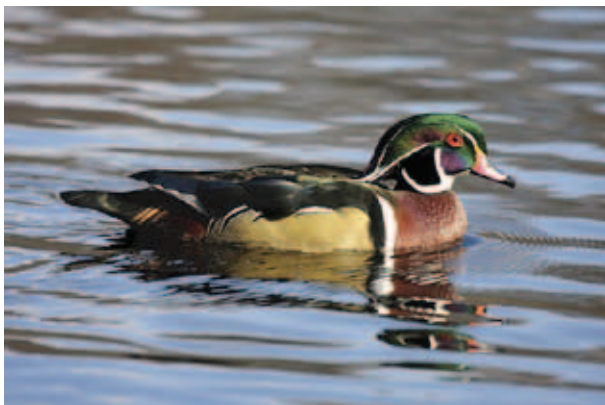
## Breeding Bird Walk at Theodore Roosevelt Island

Saturday, June 6 (7-11 am)

Leader: John Bjerke

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Breeding birds are excellent environmental indicators, and breeding bird surveys generate important data for monitoring the health of ecosystems. On a loop walk around Theodore Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River near Georgetown, we'll explore bottomland woods and wetlands in search of both common and uncommon breeders of this protected habitat. We'll discuss the breeding strategies of species such as Osprey, Barred Owl, Wood Duck, Northern Parula, and Common Yellowthroat, among others, as well as the types of census techniques which ornithologists and citizen scientists use to determine population levels and trends. We'll walk up to 2.5 miles at a leisurely pace on natural-surface trails and boardwalk. Our leader participated in the 2002-2006 Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project.



Wood duck/EE photo

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

Thursday, June 11 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Sunday, June 14 (full day field trip)

Leader: Richard Orr

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only: members \$20; nonmembers \$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 2016. *Just getting started in dragonflies and damselflies? Our leader's introductory class in August is for you.*

## Natural Heritage Series: Suitland Bog

Thursday, June 11 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Sunday, June 14 (morning field trip)

Leader: Cris Fleming

Members \$44; nonmembers \$58

Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Suitland Bog is a tiny "magnolia bog," the best preserved of over 30 bogs that once occurred in the Beltsville-Suitland area. At least 20 state-listed species still occur in the bog, including the delicate rose pogonia orchid and two species of sundew. Thursday's class will include slides of plants and a discussion of bog formation and characteristics of various bog types. Sunday's field trip to the bog, which we'll explore by boardwalk, is limited to 14 people.

## Early Summer Wildflowers of Little Bennett Park

Saturday, June 13 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Follow a naturalist, who knows this park well, in a search for the blooms of early summer at Little Bennett Regional Park in upper Montgomery County. We'll walk up to 3 miles on natural surface and gravel trails, with minimum uphill and downhill, as we visit woodland and wetland. Black Cohosh, also affectionately known as Fairy Candles, should be in bloom, as well as Thimbleberry and a Penstemon species or two.

## Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)

Section A: June 17 - Riley's Lock

Section B: July 1 - Widewater

Section C: July 8 - Carderock

Section D: July 22 - 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.



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).

## Solstice Morning at Hoyle's Mill Park

Sunday, June 21 (9 am-12:30 pm)  
 Leader: Carole Bergmann  
 Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Hoyle's Mill Conservation Park, in upper Montgomery County, MD, preserves the largest diabase bedrock habitat in the state of Maryland. At more than 800 acres and containing the biggest continuous forest under Montgomery County Park supervision, this Park is a rich reservoir of uncommon plants. As official summer arrives, join Carole Bergmann, Forest Ecologist for MNCPPS, for an exploration of this area and the botanically diverse flora it supports. *We will walk several miles on Park trails, with some infrequent, light bushwacking.*

## Six-legged Songsters of Summer

Thursday, June 25 (7:30-9:30 pm)  
 Leader: Cathy Stragar  
 Free, but registration is required.

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.



Look for details on other summer programs at [ANSHome.org/adultnatureprograms](http://ANSHome.org/adultnatureprograms)

## Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 27



## How Do Their Gardens Grow?

Saturday, July 18 (9 am-12:30 pm)  
 Leaders: Liz Jones and Marney Bruce

## Butterflies of Governor's Bridge Natural Area

Sunday, June 28 (10 am-2:30 pm)  
 Leaders: Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason

## Summer Fungus Walk

Sunday, July 19 (9 am-12:30 pm)  
 Leader: Tovi Lehmann

## Summer on Wheels Along the Patuxent

Saturday, July 4 (8 am-12:30 pm)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason

## Advanced Butterfly Studies

Thursday, July 23 (7:30-9:30 pm)  
 Sunday, July 26 (3/4 day field trip)  
 Leaders: Dick Smith and Stephanie Mason

## Holiday Hike Along the River

Sunday, July 5 (8 am-12:30 pm)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason

## Sunset Stroll in the Hollow

Saturday, July 25 (7-9 pm)  
 Leader: Stephanie Mason

## Geology of Cunningham Falls State Park and Catoctin Furnace

Saturday, July 11 (10 am-3 pm)  
 Leader: Joe Marx

## Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Dickerson Conservation Park

Sunday, July 26 (9 am-12:30 pm)  
 Leader: Carole Bergmann

## The Buzz on Bees and Wasps

Saturday, July 11 (8:30-11 am)  
 Leader: Cathy Stragar

## Wilds of South Jersey: Little Pines and Big Marshes

Monday, July 27 (8 am) to Tuesday, July 28 (4 pm)  
 Leader: Mark Garland

# Water Quality Monitoring

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

## Introduction to Water Quality Monitoring



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

### Classroom Session

Wednesday, April 29 (7-9 pm)

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

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

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

### Field Workshop

Saturday, May 2 (9:30 am-12:30 pm) site TBA

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

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

## Aquatic Insect Family ID



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

Section A: Wednesday, May 6 - Caddisflies

Section B: Wednesday, May 13 - Beetles & Megaloptera

Section C: Wednesday, May 20 - Dragonflies, Damselflies & True Flies

Section D: Wednesday, May 27 - Mayflies

Section E: Wednesday, June 3 - Stoneflies & Review

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

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

## Macroinvertebrate ID Review & Quiz



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

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

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

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

Section D: Wednesday, June 10 (6:30-9 pm)

No fee

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

## How to Read Your Stream



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

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

Section B: Wednesday, June 17 (7-9:30 pm)

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

Learn about stream characteristics and dynamics. Find out how land use affects our streams. We will practice evaluating stream conditions using photographs and the habitat assessment forms that monitors fill out in the field. This class is recommended for anyone who plans to participate in the ANS water quality monitoring program and is a good refresher on habitat assessment for experienced monitors. Registration required.

## Know Your Invasive Plants

Woodend Sanctuary (Teale), Chevy Chase, MD

Saturday, May 16 (9:30 am-12 pm)

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



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

## 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).

# Free Birding Trips March-June

These free, volunteer-led walks offer birders a chance to explore new areas with other birding enthusiasts. Visit ANSHome.org, 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.

## MARCH

**Tuesdays, March 10 and 17 and Thursday, March 12**  
**Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD**  
**Informal late afternoon walks until dusk**

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

**Saturday, March 14**  
**Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince George's Co., MD**

Half day. Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe, winter and early spring songbirds. Ospreys displaying. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking by park hdqtrs. Wear mud-conditions footwear. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with John Bjerke, 240-401-1643 or johnbjerke1@mac.com.

**Wednesday, March 25**  
**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

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

## APRIL

**Tuesday, April 7**  
**Pennyfield in the Spring, Tra-la!**

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

**Sunday, April 19**  
**Charles County, MD, Parks and Refuges**

Half day. Early songbird migrants, woodpeckers, waterfowl and waterbirds; eagles, hawks, and ospreys. Joint trip with SoMD Audubon. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at Burger King (3165 Marshall Hall Rd) on the right at MD-210 (Indian Head Hwy) & MD-227 in Bryans Road, MD 20616. Area to include Indian Head Rail Trail, Red-headed Woodpecker swamps, Smallwood State Park, Mattawoman Creek; hiking boots and long pants suggested. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Carol Ghebelian, 301-753-6754 or ghebelian@comcast.net. Lynne Wheeler will co-lead.

**Saturday, April 25**

**Rock Creek Park, Maintenance Yard and Nature Center, DC**  
 One-third day. Prime area for migrating songbirds. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am in Maintenance area parking lot, next door to Nature Center/Stables. **Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Stephen Jones, 301-320-3518.

**Wednesday, April 29**  
**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

See March 25 listing for details.

## MAY

**Saturday, May 2**  
**Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery County, MD**

Half day. Both nesting and migrant songbirds, waterbirds, and possible raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7 am at Zion Road parking lot. Waterproof footwear strongly recommended. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Marc Liebermann at mdliebern@gmail.com.

**Sunday, May 10**  
**C&O Canal, MD Areas**

Half day. Songbirds, waterbirds, raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7 am in parking lot at Riley's Lock on the Canal. For more info, contact leaders Tony Fatcher, 301-422-3927 or tonyfatcher1@verizon.net or Floyd Murdoch, 301-937-2362.

**Wednesday, May 27**  
**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

See March 25 listing for details.

## JUNE

**Sunday, June 7**  
**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.

**Saturday, June 13**  
**Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery County, 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.

**Wednesday, June 24**  
**Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA**

See March 25 listing for details.

# Natural History Field Studies



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

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

## Reptiles & Amphibians

NATH8276E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Mondays, April 6-June 15, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: April 25, May 16, and June 6

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Rachel Gauza

The course is an introduction to the study of reptiles and amphibians in the Mid-Atlantic region. Reptile and amphibian biology, ecology, behavior and natural history will be discussed. An emphasis will be placed on local species diversity, identification, and conservation.

## Introduction to Ornithology

NATH7118E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Mondays, April 6-June 15, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: April 25, May 23, and June 13

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Gemma Radko

Learn about birds and their special characteristics. Study their external and internal anatomy, feather structure, plumage, special adaptations, flight, migration, courtship, mating, nesting, eggs, incubation, care of the young, habitats, ecology, behavior, conservation, evolution, classification, distribution, and bird-related activities. Field trips emphasize field identification, bird song and other behavior.

*Find details on Summer NHFS classes, starting in June, at ANShome.org/NHFS*

### Insect Life

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

**Instructor:** Cathy Stragar

### Wetland Ecosystems

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

**Instructor:** Terry McTigue

### Ferns and Lycophytes

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

**Instructor:** Carl Taylor

### Understanding Evolution

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

**Instructor:** Jane Huff

### Summer Bird Life

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

**Instructor:** Gemma Radko

### Summer Wildflower ID

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

**Instructor:** Melanie Choukas-Bradley

### Butterflies and their Conservation

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

**Instructor:** Rick Borchelt

## Biodiversity

NATHxxxx, 1.5 CEUs

Class dates/time: Tuesdays, April 14-May 12, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: April 18 (SCBI) and May 2 (local)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$259

Instructor: Joel Cohen

Use the sciences of genetics, evolutionary biology, and ecology to learn what biological diversity is and why it is important. Examine benefits of and threats to biodiversity, study megabiodiversity sites, and learn methods of curbing declines in population. Discover diversity in differing environments on two field trips, one of which will go to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, VA, with a \$10 admission fee. Previous courses in Biology for Naturalists and Introduction to Ecology recommended.

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

Weekly through June. Meet at the Audubon Sanctuary Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. No registration required.

# Spring Courses April-June

## Biology for Naturalists

NATH1110E, 2 credits

Class dates/time: Tuesdays, April 7-June 9, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: April 25 and May 16

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Jane Huff

Explore basic biological principles and theories with hands-on examples drawn from the natural world around us.

Understand the classification and adaptations of organisms as we explore living things. Outdoor activities and field trips will help you develop the naturalist's way of seeing. This course is recommended background for other courses in the Natural History Field Studies Certificate program. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed.

## Freshwater Ecosystems

NATH8207E, 3 CEUs

Class dates/time: Wednesdays, April 8-June 10, 7-9 pm

Field Trip dates: April 25 and May 16

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Jai Cole

This course will focus on the foundations of Freshwater Ecology. Topics covered will include basic water chemistry, geology, stream flow dynamics, benthic macroinvertebrate and freshwater fish ecology and identification, ecological interactions, stormwater management and ecosystem restoration. The focus will be on stream systems but lakes and wetlands will be covered as well. The field trips will visit a stream restoration site to talk about the dynamics that go into design and construction and to look at different freshwater ecosystems and become familiar with the organisms that inhabit them.



Photo of Ten Mile Creek by Tenley Wurglitz

## The Living Soil

NATH1175E, 2 credits

Class dates/time: Wednesdays, April 8-June 10, 6-8 pm

Field Trip dates: April 18 (9 am-1 pm), May 9 (9 am-1:30 pm), and May 30 (9 am-12 pm)

Location: Capital Gallery, DC

Tuition: \$355

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Knowledge of soils is basic to understanding plant communities and ecosystems. Examine the nature of soils and their influence on environment. Learn the structure, properties and the classification of soils and the significance of these factors to plant growth and other uses. Discover life in the soil, and study the soil groups and natural land resource areas of the Central Atlantic region. Previous courses in wetlands and biology are helpful. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed.

## 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.

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.



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).

## Panama: The Wild, Remote Forests of Darién

April 18-25, 2015

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Carlos Bethancourt

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

## Scotland: Nature of the Highlands and Islands **FULL**

July 7-19, 2015

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. A full week at Aigas is the centerpiece of this new travel program. Stay in cottages tucked into the estate's arboretum, some beneath Giant Sequoia trees planted here 150 years ago, and take meals in the Great Hall of the Manor House. Head out on field trips each day, some to the east coast, some to the west, and some to the moors, glens, and straths in the middle of the Scottish Highlands. Cost for ANS members is \$4900, double occupancy from Glasgow, which includes almost all meals. **This trip is full, but planning is underway for another departure in 2016.**

### 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**.

## Yellowstone: Where Wild Things Roam

July 9-19, 2015

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & Mark England

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

## Honduras: Spectacular Pico Bonito Lodge

November 7-14, 2015

Leaders: Paul Pisano and local guides



Black-headed Trogon by Mark S. Garland

Pico Bonito Lodge, near the Caribbean Sea in northern Honduras, is the new "hot destination" for birding and nature tours in Central America. The lodge features very nice cabins, exceptional meals, and great service, but more importantly it features excellent trails through pristine forests adjacent to a

large National Park. Spend a week at this lodge exploring these trails and venturing out to nearby natural areas, including the mangrove swamps of Cuero y Salada Wildlife Refuge and the Cayos Cochinos Archipelago. Lovely Cotinga, Boat-billed Heron, Keel-billed Motmot, and the endemic Honduran Emerald just begin the list of possible sightings. Members' cost is \$2600, double occupancy from San Pedro Sula.

## South Florida: Exploring the Dynamic Everglades

January 16-24, 2016

Leaders: Mark Garland, Tom Gire, & Judy Gire

Escape winter and enjoy the biological richness of southern Florida. Our trip visits a variety of natural areas in Everglades National Park, along with the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center and the Wakodahatchee Wetlands near West Palm Beach. We are sure to see a lot of birds and other wildlife, but we also take a holistic approach, looking at the complex interwoven character of the many habitats of the Everglades ecosystem. Learn about the major conservation efforts that have recently been implemented to hopefully restore and protect this national treasure. The trip wraps up in southwestern Florida, where we visit Corkscrew Swamp, Rookery Bay, Tigertail Beach, and Everglades City. Cost TBA.

## Costa Rica: Celebrating Tropical Biodiversity

January 30-February 13, 2016

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos "Charlie" Gómez

Costa Rica has long been considered one of the world's top ecotourism destinations. On our more than 28 years of trips there, we always visit several different habitats in our search for birds, plants, and all manner of wildlife. Lessons on tropical ecology and conservation engage us every day. Our 2016 trip explores Caribbean lowland rain forest, cool mountain highlands, southern Pacific foothills and coastline, and other tropical wild lands. Thrill to sightings of toucans, trogons, tanagers, monkeys, and more. Call or e-mail to receive an itinerary and registration packet when they are available

## Botswana: Africa's Wilderness Wetland

April 3-13, 2016

Leaders: Mark Garland & Graham Johansson

Botswana is a stable, peaceful nation in southern Africa with great appeal to wildlife enthusiasts. Savannahs are home to zebras, giraffes, elephants, lions, cheetahs, gazelles, and others – the classic guild of African wildlife – but Botswana has something special: the Okavango Delta. Here the African savannah meets the continent's largest freshwater wetland, creating truly one of the world's most spectacular wildlife viewing destinations. Our itinerary visits two different small lodges in the delta for maximum immersion into this spectacular ecosystem, along with a visit to the associated Lanyanti wetlands to the north. We also offer an optional pre-trip extension to the Kalahari desert, and an optional post-trip extension to Victoria Falls, Zambia. Call or email to receive an itinerary and registration packet when they are available.

## Southeastern Arizona: Crossroads of Western Ecosystems

August 19-28, 2016

Leaders: Mark England & 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. Search for birds and learn about this region's ecological diversity with popular ANS leader Mark England and Sheri Williamson, Director of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory. Planning is underway; contact us and we'll send the final itinerary and other details as soon as the planning is complete.



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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).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Master Naturalist Volunteer Colette Cowey Lends A Hand at Rust



Pam Herrick

Colette Cowey is a long-time resident of Bethesda. She got involved with ANS in 2013 through the Master Naturalist training program. Colette thought the training would be a great way to learn how to be a better steward of the wooded grounds around the condominium where she lives. Coincidentally, she was recently retired so the timing of the training was perfect.

Colette completed her Master Naturalist training at ANS in the fall of 2013 and it did, indeed, prove useful to her work on the condominium greenspace committee.

"It helped me to understand the broader ecology of our community and the many aspects that need to be considered in making reasonable management decisions. If you enjoy spending time outside, the M[aster] N[aturalist] program is a wonderful way to build skills and enhance one's ability to help preserve the richness of nature that we have in the Greater Washington area," said Cowey.

Thankfully for ANS, Colette became as dedicated to our organization as she was to her home community. Having completed Weed Warrior training prior to her Master Naturalist certification, Colette first became involved with invasive control around the Woodend Nature Sanctuary. Committed to completing the required volunteer hours for Master Naturalist certification, she asked what else she could do for ANS. That's when she heard about the great need for volunteers at our Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg, Virginia.

Rust Program Manager Susanne Ortmann put Colette's talents to good use: first she drafted a grant proposal (working remotely), next she worked on-site at Rust and in Loudoun County schools to deliver GreenKids stream science and habitat programming.

At first blush, the distance to travel to Rust was daunting. But the benefits, Colette soon found, were plentiful. Rust gave her the chance to work in a different environment than Woodend. She found the more rural setting of Rust with a greater variety of habitat types interesting. Her work at Rust gave her flashbacks to the botany class she took her freshman year in college. As a former teacher, she also relished the chance to work with young children again.

"It's worth the time commitment, because I am meeting a real need," noted Cowey. And for those budding naturalists she taught, she hopes she left them with "a sense of the joy of nature and the importance of being a good nature steward."

We're sure you did Colette, and we thank you for your volunteer service with ANS.



Diane Lill

*A big thanks to ANS member Helen Melichar for helping to arrange a behind-the-scenes tour for ANS staff and volunteers of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Bird Collection in January. Thank you also to Jacob Saucier and Brian Schmidt for giving the tour!*

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

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



**Audubon Naturalist  
Birdseed Sale  
May 1 -31**

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

## Current Volunteer Opportunities

### Habitat Stewards

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

### Content Creators

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

### Role Models

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

### Watershed Ambassadors

Help ANS engage local communities on issues of water quality and stream health. In June, ANS will launch its new smartphone app Creek Critters to guide novices in sampling stream macroinvertebrates and assessing stream health. Volunteers are needed to help newbies use the app, as well as the more traditional tools of nets, buckets and magnifying lenses during H2O Blitz events.

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

## The Osprey? ANS Updates its Brand

In August 2014, Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) was awarded a Visual Identity & Brand Strategy service grant from the Taproot Foundation to redesign the logo—an award valued at \$55,000.

To guide this project, the Taproot Foundation assigned a team to ANS, which includes an Account Director, Project Manager, Brand Strategist, Marketing Manager and Graphic Designer. With these highly qualified and engaged volunteer specialists, ANS is taking the first key step toward updating the face of the organization to reflect the diversity and depth of our program and advocacy offerings.

The current 20-year old osprey logo, does not fully visually reflect ANS—we're about more than just birds. ANS nature programs cover wide-ranging topics from dragonflies to tree frogs; and our conservation program focuses on clean streams and stewardship right here in our community. The existing ANS logo is also not mobile and tablet friendly.

This brand project is very exciting. The Taproot team has been collecting feedback from ANS members, volunteers and interested stakeholders through online surveys and telephone interviews. Taproot has also briefed the ANS Board of Directors on the project, completed a site visit with us, and held a kick off meeting for the project.

As a next step, Taproot will analyze the feedback gathered, articulate a creative direction and move into the design phase to deliver ANS a new logo by this spring!



### Tell Us What You Think

The vision of Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) is to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it. How does ANS provide high-quality programming options and member benefits to connect a wider audience to nature in the DC metro region? Take the survey and tell us your thoughts.

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

We're interested in hearing from ANS members and non-members alike. All your feedback will help us explore future ways to expand ANS offerings.

Thanks for participating. Take the survey today!

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## Q&A with Lola Oberman: ANS Member for 45 Years

By Cathy Grubman

A naturalist, writer and birder, **Lola Oberman** has been a long-time member and supporter of the Audubon Naturalist Society. For many years, Lola wrote a column for the Audubon Naturalist News called Notes from Melody Lane and served as a volunteer for the bird hotline. She is the author of two nature books—Dial B for Birder: The Private Files of a Real-Life Bird Detective and The Pleasures of Watching Birds—and penned articles for Bird Watcher's Digest and the Montgomery Gazette, among others. Now 98, Lola and her husband Ted live in Bethesda—on Melody Lane. We caught up with her recently.

### Has birding always been a passion with you and your family?

I grew up in rural Illinois in the Mississippi Valley in a nature-oriented family. We were all conscious of birds in migration and welcomed the song of the first meadowlark in spring. At the age of 7, I kept a notebook of birds I had seen and learned to imitate most of them. My husband Ted is a retired optometrist who shares my enthusiasm for birds and nature in general. Our son Steve lives in a college town in Illinois. He has recently retired, and spends much of his time watching and feeding birds.

### How long have you been an ANS member?

My husband took the initiative in joining ANS in 1969. A patient of his noticed bird pictures on his office wall and said, "You ought to join the Audubon Society." So on his way home from work he stopped at the Audubon bookstore located in Georgetown, and signed up. He brought home a list of field trips, and we went on every one of them. Our first was on May 1, 1969—and we still celebrate the date. We have a clear memory of seeing our first prothonotary warbler at Riley's Lock. This spring will mark our 45th year with ANS.

### What type of professional work did you do before working for Audubon?

I was always involved in politics, beginning at teen age. I volunteered in presidential campaigns beginning with fellow-Illinoisan, Adlai Stevenson. Ultimately, I became a political speechwriter, working on Capitol Hill for the Democratic leadership of the House and finally five years for Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas who became a candidate for President.



Courtesy of Janice Browne

*Rent Woodend Sanctuary*  
 rebecca.robinson@anshome.org  
 anshome.org/rentals

### What years did you write Notes From Melody Lane? What type of subjects did you cover?

I was still working on The Hill when I began writing Notes from Melody Lane, at the request of the editor of ANS News, and continued, as I recall, until 1998. Mostly I wrote about birds, although my farewell column was about the family dog.

### What other work did you do for ANS?

I enjoyed writing the column, but I also enjoyed leading field trips, giving talks to schools and garden clubs, and assisting at holiday fairs and similar events. I served on the Board for several years and on search committees (for editor and for executive director). One of my favorite activities was answering telephone calls about birds—sometimes helping to identify strange birds, or helping birders find good birding spots. I developed many friendships over the phone.

### What is your favorite nature site in the area?

Any place on the C&O Canal towpath is special, although I have a fondness for Sycamore Landing because of the early spring wildflowers as well as early migrating warblers.

### What do you love about nature, birds especially?

The world of nature is so refreshing, at any time of year. It is easy to forget the world's problems as you walk along a woodland path or stroll beside the Potomac River, especially if there is bird song to call attention to the great variety of birds to be enjoyed. In winter there are ducks on the river; in spring the call of the wood thrush is a reminder of the arrival of summer residents. It is a constantly changing scene.


### What advice do you give to people about appreciating or preserving nature?

Anyone who loves nature is impelled to take steps to conserve what we appreciate now for future generations. The Audubon Naturalist Society offers many opportunities to engage in conservation activities, such as its stream monitoring program and lobbying to preserve the valuable Ten Mile Creek area which could all too easily be lost to thoughtless development.

*If you are an ANS member, interested in telling your story through our Q&A, contact Director of Marketing and Communications Kelli Holsendolph at Kelli.Holsendolph@anshome.org.*

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## An Award-Winning ANS



**Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)** is a **Gold Winner** in the 2015 AVA Digital Awards for its **2014 Annual Report microsite**. The site was designed for ANS by AJ Campbell of CoSynergy. AVA Digital is an international competition that recognizes outstanding achievement

by creative professionals involved in the concept, direction, design and production of media that is part of the evolution of digital communication. The 2014 ANS Annual Report microsite was among about 2,100 entries from the United States, Canada and several other countries in the 2015 competition. About 18 percent were Gold Winners. The Gold Award is presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry norm. About 15 percent won the Platinum Award, the organization's top honor; and about 8 percent received Honorable Mention recognition. If you haven't seen our award winning Annual Report site, check it out at [ar.anshome.org](http://ar.anshome.org).

In rentals, ANS has reason to celebrate. WeddingWire, the nation's leading online wedding marketplace, named **Audubon Naturalist Society's Woodend Nature Sanctuary** as a winner of the prestigious **WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards® 2015** for ceremony and



reception venue. The WeddingWire Couples' Choice Awards® 2015 recognizes the top five percent of wedding professionals in the WeddingWire Network who demonstrate excellence in quality, service, responsiveness and professionalism.



**Audubon Naturalist Society** successfully completed the **Standards for Excellence® accreditation** program from the Standards for Excellence Institute®, a project of Maryland Nonprofits. The Standards for Excellence Institute® encourages excellence and

integrity in nonprofit management. Organizations voluntarily participate, and their internal practices undergo a rigorous "ethics checkup." ANS was first certified in 2009 and recertified in January 2015.

A panel of trained peer reviewers assesses the applicant's practices and determines if they have met the Standards. The standards set a high benchmark. They go beyond the minimum legal requirements by outlining how well-managed and responsibly governed nonprofits should operate.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Education programs are held at Woodend, the Audubon Naturalist Society's 40-acre Headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, unless otherwise noted. To register for any School's Out Nature Camp or Water Quality Program, fill out the registration form found on our website and mail or fax it in. You may also register in person in the EE office Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. You will be notified immediately if the program is full; otherwise, confirmation letters will be mailed or emailed 1-2 weeks before the scheduled program. See the yellow box below for programs that have online registration.

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

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

- Cancellations must be made at least six working days before the beginning of the program to be eligible for a credit 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.

### Looking for the Registration Form?

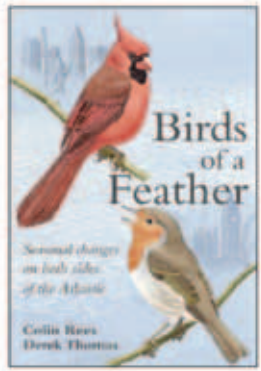
Find the ANS Environmental Education Program Registration Form online under "Quick Links" at [anshome.org](http://anshome.org).

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

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Join author **Colin Rees** for a discussion of *Birds of a Feather*, which portrays the changing seasons in the United Kingdom and United States. In the context of their gardens, neighborhoods and larger landscapes, Rees and Thomas provide a month by month account of their birding year, commenting upon what they see and hear. They also consider how our

world is radically changing the lives of birds.

Light refreshments served. RSVP online at [www.anshome.org/birdathon](http://www.anshome.org/birdathon).

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