

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Spring 2017

ANSHOME.ORG



Environmentalists who are in it to win it

Despite new threats, how they plan to keep the environment on a winning track - page 4

ANS NATURE ACTIVITIES & NEWS

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

HEADQUARTERS

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

STORE HOURS

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

GROUND'S HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

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

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RENTALS Beatriz Engel

NATURALIST QUARTERLY


ANShome.org Spring 2017

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COVER Lisa Alexander, Executive Director of the Audubon Naturalist Society, outside of Woodend Mansion. Photo by Caroline Brewer.

Do you participate in the National Capital Area CFC?

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Naturalist Society 75493** in the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.

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

From the Director

"A little bit" (of the environment) is not enough for us – Is it for you?

Well friends, things are as bad as we feared. Our country now has an EPA administrator who is "a leading advocate against the EPA's activist agenda," as his web page proudly proclaims.

Let's stiffen our spines

I share your fear that hard-won environmental protections at the federal level will be gutted, de-funded and under-enforced. Just think about the Stream Protection Rule, designed to keep coal-ash out of streams and waterways. That legislation was at least **seven years** in the making. It took Congress **just two days** in January to dismantle the rule completely.

Many of our members are federal employees and contractors and teachers whose world is being upended by this new administration because it does not hold science, education and environmental conservation dear. For example, the new President has said, "We'll be fine with the environment. We can leave a little bit, but you can't destroy businesses." Yet, you won't find hand-wringing here. As members of this venerable, 120-year-old environmental institution, we look to our history of successful and fearless advocacy to stiffen our spines.

We're going to step up our challenges to these threats

So, how will this play out? ANS is going to step up its lobbying activity. ANS is defined as a 501(c)3 organization with an 'H' designation. The 501(c)3 gives us our non-profit status. The 'H'



sets for us a carefully calculated IRS limit on the amount of lobbying activity in which we can engage. And we're nowhere close to reaching our limit!

There is so much more WE CAN DO to support the natural world

So together, we can speak out even more, march more, send more letters, make more phone calls and rally our friends. We can continue to educate people of all ages, including our legislators, about why it's important to protect nature. ANS will give you the tools and opportunities you need to do more for the environment.

What's more, because ANS is a regional organization, we are well-positioned to hold the line for the environment in the DC metro area. Even if federal regulations are gutted, we'll fight to keep good, local environmental laws. Already, we've organized our members to stand up for the strong, new Maryland Forest Conservation Act. And in Virginia, we've rallied folks to stop Dominion Power from fouling drinking water.

Join us TODAY

We need you to speak up and take action - today. Please click on the ANS home page, www.anshome.org, to sign up for Action Alerts. You'll receive every call to arms we send out on behalf of nature. ANS relies on federal funding from the EPA and NOAA to support our mission programs. That funding is now in jeopardy. Help us deliver on our mission and fight bad policy by changing your support to a **monthly contribution or registering to join our fight**. Please sign up today at www.anshome.org/monthly.

I'm heartened by the members of Audubon Naturalist Society who are ready to do more to protect the natural world we treasure. I hope to see you with ANS staff, members and friends who will March for Science on Earth Day, April 22, 2017. (See page 32 for details).

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Celebrate the life of your loved one at Woodend Nature Sanctuary

Woodend offers outdoor and indoor spaces for intimate or large memorials and life celebrations. Planning support, on-site parking, and excellent catering options are part of the package.

If you need a peaceful and private estate for you and your guests to share fond memories of those who hold a special place in your heart, consider Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

Call Beatriz Engel at 301-652-9188 x 38 to verify availability and discuss your needs, or e-mail her at woodendrentals@anshome.org.

STAFF UPDATES: We welcome **Caroline Brewer**, Director of Marketing and Communications, who has a distinguished communications track record as a consultant helping authors, educational institutions, and non-profits, with the Brady Campaign, and as the youngest Public Information Director in her hometown's history. She was also a Pulitzer Prize nominated journalist and is a published children's author. She has a passion for the natural world, which makes ANS the perfect place for her next great adventure. The first 100 people to email and welcome Caroline (contact@anshome.org) will receive a coupon for 15% off their next visit to the Naturalist Shop!

Environmentalists who are in it to win it

Interviews coordinated by Cathy Grubman and Caroline Brewer

“Our Land, Our Water, Our Food” was the subject of a recent symposium hosted by Audubon Naturalist Society at Woodend. More than 75 people gathered to plot a part of the environmental future of the DC region. We asked a few of the leaders who attended: “What is the greatest environmental effort you have been involved in with your organization?” and “What lessons were learned to help us move forward?”

Here’s what they said:

We gave birth to a blueprint for how to be smart about growth

Our Blueprint for a Better Region is a vision for a revitalized city and network of walkable, sustainable, and inclusive transit-oriented communities, linked together by our Metro system. It is a vision conceived by the region’s leading conservation groups who founded the Coalition for Smarter Growth in 1997. In the years since, we’ve changed the debate about growth, with our sustainable and inclusive vision at the heart of the Council of Governments’ Region Forward Vision. The market



has responded, resulting in 120,000 new residents in DC in just 12 years and 86% of new office development within 1/4 mile of a Metro station. This efficient use of land reduces the conversion of farms, forests and natural areas; reduces driving while increasing walking, bicycling, and transit use; cuts air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; and better connects all levels of the workforce to jobs.

Lessons Learned: Collaboration and partnerships are important, not just with similar conservation groups, but with housing and equity advocates, the business community, and neighborhood advocates. We also learned it takes a sustained effort over many years to build relationships, establish credibility, and win change, but eventually you can hit tipping points where thinking quickly shifts and you can make substantial progress.

Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth



Attention to food sources can help us grow an environmental consciousness

Access to healthy, affordable food takes many forms, and is an important environmental question. D.C. Hunger Solutions co-convenes the D.C. Farmers’ Collaborative. This allows us to ensure that low-income residents have access to healthy, affordable, locally grown fruits and vegetables. By including farmer’s markets into our summer meals outreach, we introduce our youngest residents to locally grown fruits and vegetables while ensuring they receive a healthy meal during a critical time when school is not in session.

Lessons Learned: We have learned that collaboration and consolidation are very powerful tools in the non-profit sector. We go further when we work together and play to each other’s strengths rather than trying to do it all ourselves.

Beverly Wheeler, Director, DC Hunger Solutions



Eliza Cava, ANS Conservation Director, speaks at the symposium.



We built lasting bonds over a big backyard threat

Our Trustees, Fred and Diana Prince, are landowners in the Piedmont and have a home in the District. They understand that protecting these resources requires ongoing vigilance, commitment and a bit of grit. They take the long view and remain committed to a variety of strategies that, when taken together, have a multiplying and enduring impact that strengthens the vitality of the communities in which they live.

Their resolve was tested in 1994 when Disney planned a major theme park in a small rural community just outside the city. The park would have exacerbated sprawl, compromised the natural environment and desecrated historic land.

Lessons Learned: The resulting campaign challenging Disney created a model for collaboration. It started as a small, grassroots effort of landowners but quickly expanded into a debate about how we grow as a region and went on to include a national ideological discussion regarding the importance of preserving our culture and historic lands. It is an example of the power that is generated when disparate groups find commonalities in their work and develop strategies from the local to the regional to the national level. The Disney campaign went on to launch a smart growth movement in the region and birthed several organizations that are still in the forefront of these issues. And, in addition to the Piedmont region, groups continue to work across the "mega-region" from Baltimore to Charlottesville and Richmond.

Carolynn Brunette, DC Managing Director, Prince Charitable Trusts

People will fight for what's right

At ANS, we stand on the shoulders of 120 years of advocacy victories in the DC region, protecting land, water and natural resources for the good of all citizens. We are proud of our recent win - protecting the **emergency drinking water supply for 4.3 million residents of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.**

We've achieved victories like this time and again by finding issues that unite citizens to a common purpose. With Disney, history lovers, horse farmers and passionate environmentalists banded together to resist a mega-park that would have destroyed precious open lands in the Piedmont.

To safeguard our emergency drinking water supply in the Ten Mile Creek watershed, ANS united more than 30 citizen groups, ranging from union members to faith groups to champions of the Agricultural Reserve, in defense of clean water.

Lessons Learned: In the face of weakening federal guardianship of the environment, we must forge ahead to bolster local environmental protections

by remembering the keys to advocacy success – people will fight for places and resources that matter to them. They will fight especially when we focus on the big tent issues that go beyond our 'green box' of environmentalism and unite people around shared values, needs and concerns.

Lisa Alexander, Executive Director, Audubon Naturalist Society



We have engaged masses in the metro area

Over the past 45 years, PEC has helped communities throughout the Piedmont region of Virginia articulate a vision of a place they love, and hope that they will be able to pass it on to the next generation in even better shape. Our supporters are passionate about their communities; they are always striving to make them better and protect them from unnecessary change. What PEC is most proud of is that we provide ways for everyone in our communities to contribute to a better future, whether it's by direct, do-it-yourself actions, like donating a conservation easement, or by investing in a farm solar system or by focusing citizens on critical policy decisions at the local, state or federal level. We are proud of short term campaigns to focus the public on Disney's America, open pit mining for uranium in Virginia, and poorly planned highway projects, like the Outer Beltway. What we are most proud of, however, is the sustained civic engagement in our region that has resulted in 400,000 acres of permanently protected areas, improved air and water quality, the great places to live like Charlottesville and Leesburg, and a resurgent farming community that is beginning to provide the Washington metropolitan area with delicious and sustainable food.

Lessons Learned: One thing we've learned is that "quick wins" are hard to come by. True change takes a sustained commitment over many, many years.

Chris Miller, President, The Piedmont Environmental Council



Conservation

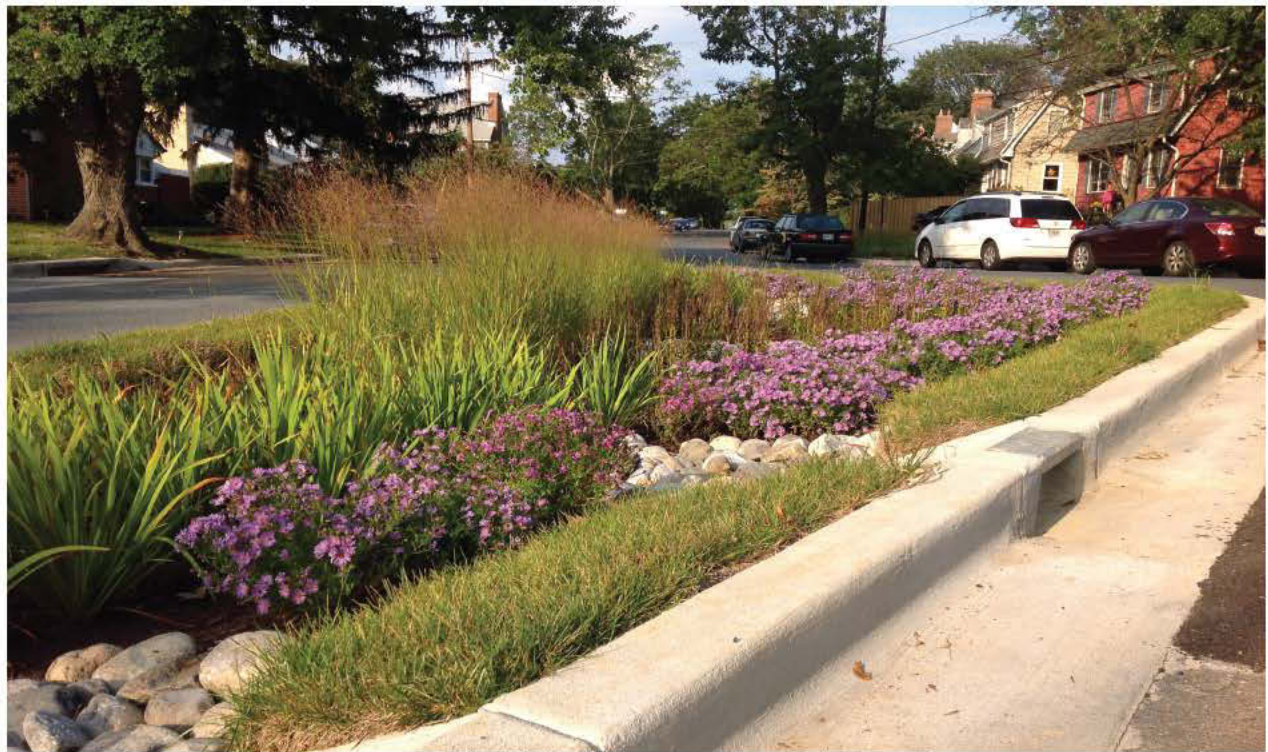


Photo by Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Greener Streets and Cleaner Water –What You Can Do to Help

By Cathy Grubman

Want a greener, healthier street? One filled with plants, flowers, rain gardens, and permeable soils that will produce cleaner water and healthier environments for fish and other wildlife to live? Not to mention we, the people? The Audubon Naturalist Society and the Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network are looking for you.

Maintaining healthy watersheds in the Washington, D.C., region is a priority for ANS. To meet this goal, ANS co-founded the Stormwater Partners Network, a group that studies polluted runoff from stormwater and provides solutions to improve the health of our watershed. Members of the Stormwater Partners Network include the Friends of Sligo Creek, the Potomac Conservancy, and the Sierra Club, among many other local, regional, and national environmental and community groups.

The network supports the Green Streets program, which is managed by the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Green Streets redesigns public roadways to reduce and improve stormwater runoff. The project helps the County meet Federal and State mandates to control and treat stormwater runoff under the Clean Water Act.

The street designs create facilities or “practices” that filter the water, which may be polluted from road grease, oil, trash, and toxic chemicals.

“Our neighborhood is about the most complicated the county has done,” said Kit Gage, President of the Friends of Sligo

Creek and resident of the Sligo Park Hills neighborhood. “Narrow streets and big hills, and right up against the creek. So now, when there’s a one-inch rain, instead of a torrent running down the steep streets, it all gets absorbed in the bioswales and parking pads.

That keeps water volume, sediment and pollutants from shooting straight into the street. So fish and other beasts can live and reproduce and water quality can continue to improve.”

Green Streets has been around since 2009. “White Oak and Donnybrook were the first right-of-way projects,” said Ryan Zerbe, Watershed Outreach Planner at DEP. Since then, “we have completed over 400 individual projects.”

“There are so many environmental benefits,” said Eliza Cava, ANS’ Director of Conservation and Advocacy. “We want to encourage neighborhoods and our members to consider Green Streets.”

Green streets also create habitats for wildlife by incorporating native grasses, plants and trees. Another benefit is attractive streetscapes and public right-of-ways—which connect neighbors.

“Pretty much from the beginning, people were excited about the project,” said Gage.

Take Action: Support Green Streets for Clean Streams in Montgomery County!

Contact eliza.cava@anshome.org to learn how you, your neighborhood, or organization can become part of this important conservation effort.

Good Changes for the Environment in Our Hands

By Cathy Grubman

Paving land and cutting trees represent the biggest threats to clean water in our region. Audubon Naturalist Society Conservation Director Eliza Cava informed a group of citizen activists of this fact at the “Watershed Advocacy and Stewardship Training Workshop” at Woodend Sanctuary.

The workshop was hosted January 19, 2017 by ANS. It’s part of a series to help ANS advance environmental conservation by creating the kind of community that allows people to take on issues in their neighborhoods.

We are Water Protectors

“The (workshop provides) a ‘101’ type overview of how ordinary ANS members and citizens can get involved in protecting clean water and healthy watersheds,” said Cava. “Some people want to raise their voices and become advocates and activists for public policy decisions. Others may want to know the principles of what they can do around their home, church, school, or neighborhood to improve water quality. And, most importantly, we emphasized that the same skills of analyzing, organizing, planning, and communicating apply no matter what type of issue you’re working on—from meeting with legislators about an environmental bill to setting up a neighborhood cleanup.”

The 20 attendees started with a basic lesson from Cava on our most precious and important resource: water. “There are opportunities on all levels to use our skills to protect water,” said Cava. “**We are water protectors.**” The biggest threats to clean water in our region? “Paving land and cutting trees!”

Diane Cameron, an environmental policy consultant and past ANS Director of Conservation, and Bruce Gilmore, a stormwater consultant, also helped lead the training.

What Homeowners Can Do

Cameron discussed how individual homeowners can protect streams. “High-level, expensive engineering solutions are not necessary—people can do it themselves,” she said. The best way is to “**slow it down, spread it out, and soak it in.**” Some techniques are to build rain gardens and green roofs, compost soil, and plant trees. Cameron also mentioned rebate programs such as Montgomery County’s RainScapes program.

Cameron noted that neighborhood compliance is an important tool in improving watersheds as well. “Involve your neighbors in your projects,” she said. “Make your yard a ‘seed’ yard to have other neighbors follow suit.”

Persistence Key to Governmental Advocacy

Gilmore tackled advocacy at the local, state and federal governmental level, pointing out how the advocates who succeed do it through persistence. “Never take no for an answer,” he said. “And have a consistent message.” He referenced Cameron’s and ANS’ efforts for the Ten Mile Creek campaign, which ran from 2012-14. She noted how her hard, unrelenting work resulted in saving development of the Ten Mile Creek watershed, which provides our area’s emergency drinking water supply.

Community Action Campaigns

The second half of the workshop involved skills trainings on how to plan and build a community action campaign. With fun role-playing scenarios on how to approach a decision-maker and facilitated breakout sessions to practice new skills, participants left the workshop feeling educated and empowered. “I work for a small but growing watershed group,” said Tina Rouse of the Friends of Cabin John Creek. “We just started to consider what kind of advocacy program to establish. This provided tools to help us.”

Master Naturalist Barbara Lewis is interested in what’s happening with Montgomery County’s watershed, “especially in my area, as I see the water changing. I want to find the right connection. This has stimulated me to do something,” she said.

Questions? Email Eliza.Cava@anshome.org.

Upcoming Advocacy Workshops

Northern Virginia Advocacy Workshop
Saturday, March 18, 1:30-4:30 pm
Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria, VA

Join Northern Virginia Conservation Advocate Monica Billger to learn how to use your voice to create change by speaking up for the environment. Speakers and topics include: a member of Congress, who will explain why to get involved and how; state elected officials, who will share citizen advocacy tips; and conservation leaders, who will share Northern Virginia advocacy success stories. Offered in partnership with Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and other organizations. Register at <http://audubonva.org/classes> by March 13.

Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101
Thursday, April 27, 6:30-9:30 pm
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD
Members free; nonmembers \$15

Join Conservation Director Eliza Cava and Stormwater Consultant Bruce Gilmore for an evening that covers a condensed version of our four-hour program described in the article. After the workshop, begin volunteering as a Conservation Policy & Advocacy volunteer with ANS. Register online as part of adult forays.

Advocacy 201: Talking with decision-makers, writing comment letters, giving testimony
Wednesday, May 31, 6-8 pm
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD
Members free; nonmembers \$15

If you’ve attended one of the introductory advocacy workshops (or if you haven’t!), come learn how to go deeper on some key advocacy skills. We’ll teach via role-play and skill-building practice sessions. Led by Eliza Cava, Bruce Gilmore, and Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator (and Friends of Ten Mile Creek board member) Cathy Wiss. Register online as part of adult forays.

Children & Family Programs

You and your kids can unplug and explore nature every day at Woodend and Rust nature sanctuaries, open dawn to dusk for free, 365 days a year. Our trained naturalists and excellent volunteers are eager to introduce children to nature through the Audubon Nature Preschool, Summer Camp, Nature Birthday Parties, and Family Programs, and at your children's school through School Programs and GreenKids. Consider having your PTA or PTO sponsor a nature activity for your school!



Spring Break Camp

Grades K-9
 Monday, April 10-Friday, April 14
 8:30am-3pm
 Extended camp from 3-6pm
 Members \$347
 Nonmembers \$432
 Extended camp \$115

Welcome to the wonders of outdoors with a week at Camp Audubon! We will be planet pals this week while we do creek cleanups, upcycled crafts, planting in our children's garden, and, of course, games, hikes, and other outdoor adventures! Grades 6-9 can earn SSL credit.

Register online
 at anshome.org/schoolsoutcamp



Photo by Serenella Linares

Our nature bus received a beautiful butterfly makeover this January! The newly named "Butterfly Bus" showed off its bright colors at the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) Conference in the beginning of February. It shuttled environmental educators from Towson University to Goucher College. Our bus is being used to bring school groups on nature field trips to Woodend Sanctuary and will get plenty of use during summer camp. Thank you, again, to all of our generous donors, who made the nature bus possible.

Nature Backpacks

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



Summer Camp 2017

Space Available!

Pre-K/K PM camps

1st/2nd grade - Prehistoric Prowlers (week of 7/3)

3rd/4th grade - Can You Dig It and Talons and Teeth (week of 6/19), Spanish Immersion (week of 7/17), Slither and Slime (week of 7/24), Radical Reptiles (week of 8/7), and Insectigations (week of 8/14)

5th/6th grade - Nature Engineers (week of 6/19) and Across the Misty Mountains (week of 7/24)

7th/8th/9th grade - Beginning Backpacking (week of 7/10) and Green Team (week of 8/21)

10th/11th/12th - Conservation Corps (week of 6/26), Advanced Backpacking (week of 7/17), and Advanced Water Quality Monitoring (week of 7/31)

New to Camp Audubon?

Join us on **Saturday, June 10** for a Summer Camp Open House from 10 am-12 pm to visit classroom space, get a tour of the grounds, and see what the check-in and carpool process is like. Coincides with the Children's Garden Open House. More details in our next issue.



Contribute to the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

Help give all children the opportunity to experience the wonders of nature! We provide an average of 20 scholarships to campers each year. Please donate when you register online.

Register at www.ANShome.org.

For More Information:

- Call 301-652-9188 X10
- Email: carol.hayes@anshome.org

Cost:

- \$230 for ANS members
- \$265 for nonmembers, which includes a one-year family membership to ANS

Birthday Party Times:

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

Register:

anshome.org/birthday



Nature Birthday Parties!



SUMMER NATURE CAMP

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies

Capon Bridge, WV

55th Season

SENIOR PROGRAM (Ages 11-15)

Two week sessions ♦ June/July/August

JUNIOR PROGRAM (Ages 8-10)

One week ♦ August 20-26

ADULT WEEKEND (Ages 21+)

One weekend ♦ July 28-30



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION

michelem@burgundyfarm.org ♦ burgundycenter.org ♦ 703-842-0470

Weekend Walks in the Woods

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

ANSEE photo



School Field Trips

Explore nature with your students!

Winter Programs

Enrich your curriculum with a visit from a Naturalist in your classroom. We use hands-on experiences to learn about papermaking, decomposers, watersheds, mammals, garbology, and green cleaners. Learn more at ANShome.org/school.

Bring your class to Woodend 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.

Our 2016-2017 school program brochure is available at ANShome.org/school.

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.

Tales and Trails

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver
Spring Session: \$75 per child (3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23)

On Tuesdays at 10 o'clock, join us in the historic Woodend mansion for nature-themed stories and songs. We will read new books each week, enjoy learning nature songs and games, and explore Woodend trails.

Please feel free to relax and enjoy our trails, picnic areas, and bookstore before or after the program. Program starts at 10 am in the Woodend Dining Room followed by trail hikes outside until 10:45. Register online at www.anshome.org/familyprograms. Questions? Contact Kylie at kylie.watson@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x44.



Photo by Julie Kelsey

Audubon Nature Preschool



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

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

All Nature Preschool programs run September-May.

Contact Us

301-652-9188 x32
www.ANShome.org/preschool

APPLY ONLINE
ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL

Drop-off Programs

Saplings

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

Oaks

4-5 year olds
Forest Kindergarten
Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am-2 pm; Fridays, 9 am-12 pm

Parent and Child Programs

Acorns

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

Sprouts

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

Donate Now to Support Our Work

You can help us educate and inspire through nature with your donation to the Preschool Legacy Fund. Go to anshome.org/donate to make a contribution.

Rust / Northern Virginia

Ponds Awaken to Spring

A spring family program open to ages 6+ at Rust Friday, March 24 (6-8 pm)

Cost: \$7 per person, includes marshmallows and campfire

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 marshmallows around a warm campfire. Please dress for the weather - hiking boots are highly recommended. Headlamps provided. Space is limited. To reserve your spot, email susanne.ortmann@anshome.org and mail a check made out to ANS to The Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175. Offered in partnership with NOVA Parks.

Environmental Science Field Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

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

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

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

Book your next field trip to Rust Nature Sanctuary and visit our 68 acres of habitats, including meadow, forest, pond and vernal pool. For more information, email Susanne Ortmann at susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.



RUST NATURE SANCTUARY

KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE

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

Fresh Air Kids – Two Locations!

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

Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg ,VA

Fridays (10-11:30 am)

Spring: March 17-May 19 (no class 4/7 & 4/14)

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

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. To register go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4DAAAC2FA2F49-fresh. Questions? Email susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.

Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA

Mondays (10-11 am)

Early Spring: March 13-April 24 (no class 4/10)

Late Spring: May 1-June 12 (no class 5/29)

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

Reservations not confirmed until payment received (checks only). Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Offered in partnership with NOVA Parks. To register go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0C4DAAAC2FA2F49-201617. Questions? Email susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.

Naturalist in the Classroom

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

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

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

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

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 and click on "Register Online."
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- If a class is full, you may waitlist for it for free online.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

Woodcock Watch

Saturday, March 11 (5:15-7:15 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

This walk is full but register for the waitlist online as there is a possibility of a second session being added.

FULL

Window into the World of Fungi

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

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Free, but registration required.

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

FREE

See page 28 for information on our new monthly series of "Conservation Cafe" talks at Woodend starting on Thursday, March 16.

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. Gift certificates for adult forays are also available - contact pam.oves@anshome.org for more information.

Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch

Saturday, March 18 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman

Free, but registration required.

FREE

The Foundry Branch begins near the Tenley Metro Station and flows south into the Potomac River, just west of Georgetown. We will look at the natural features of the park and discuss long-term stormwater impacts and needed infrastructure rehabilitation. We will walk the watershed from north to south, looking at past problems and imagining the changes needed to restore water quality - a primary objective of the Clean Water Act. Participants can return to Tenley on a Wisconsin Avenue Metrobus or make plans for lunch in Georgetown.

Beginning Birding

Thursday, March 23 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, March 25 (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.

Early Spring Wildflower Hike

Sunday, March 26 (1-3:30 pm)

Leader: Liz Jones

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

FULL

Register for the waitlist online.

Late Winter Birding in Prince William County

Sunday, March 26 (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.

Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: March 29 - Carderock

Section B: April 12 - Widewater

Section C: April 26 - Swain's Lock

Section D: May 10 - Riley's Lock

Section E: May 24 - Violettes Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$85/\$119

These walks are all full but please register for the waitlist online as we often get cancellations.

Spring in the Parks

(8 am-12:30 pm)

A: Saturday, April 1 - Jug Bay Natural Area of Patuxent River Park, MD

B: Friday, April 21 - Riverbend Park, VA

C: Sunday, May 21 - Rock Creek Park, DC

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series: \$65/\$92

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 the coastal plain woodlands along the Patuxent River in Prince George's County. On our next outing, we'll explore the floodplain and upland habitats along the Potomac River upstream of Great Falls. As the pulse of spring slows down and the woods stand fully green again, we'll explore the surprisingly wild urban forest of Rock Creek Park in the District.

Sights and Sounds of Early Spring

Sunday, April 2 (8:30 am-2 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

Early spring wildlife activity is the focus of our loop hike along the Potomac River. Watching (and listening) for birds, butterflies, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, we'll hike upriver along the C&O Canal towpath from the Widewater area to Great Falls, MD. We'll also search for early spring wildflowers along the River's rich bottomland habitats. On the return walk back to our cars, we'll follow the Berma Road trail above the Canal for a total hiking distance of 4 miles.

Budbreak at TR Island

Wednesday April 5 (9:30 am-1:30 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members: \$28; nonmembers: \$38

Register for the waitlist online.

Introduction to Wildflower ID

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

Saturday, April 8 (9:30 am-3:30 pm)

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.

Evening on the Canal

Friday, April 7 (6:45-8:45 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Register for the waitlist online.

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

FULL

FULL

FULL

Geology of Seneca Creek

Saturday, April 8 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Seneca Creek State Park, in central Montgomery County, MD, preserves much of the valley of a medium-sized Piedmont stream. Modern floodplain and valley wall features are easily observed along the Greenway Trail, which threads through the Park. In addition, dramatic rock outcrops tell the story of an ancient ocean that was consumed during the formation of Pangaea. We will hike from Darnestown Road to Black Rock Mill and then back, for a total of around 3 miles. Our hike on natural surface trails will combine potentially muddy floodplain terrain, with some rocky upland areas. *Note: Our geology hikes move at a faster pace than our usual naturalist's shuffle.*

The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

FULL

Sunday, April 9 (1-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Register for the waitlist online.

A Year in Rock Creek Park

B: Spring Wildflower and Budbreak Walk at Boundary Bridge

Wednesday April 12 (9:30 am-2:30 pm)

C: Forest Bathing at Pinehurst Branch

Wednesday, May 31 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

D: Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park

Saturday, November 4 (9:30 am-3:30 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Walk C: members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Walks B and D: members \$34; nonmembers \$42

In 2016 the award-winning author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* completed 10 years of her popular walks for ANS titled "A Year at Boundary Bridge." This year, Melanie Choukas-Bradley will branch out into other areas of Rock Creek Park with a new series of field trips throughout the year. On the April walk, we will witness the annual floral miracle of Virginia bluebells, spring beauties and trout lilies in the floodplain forest, in addition to the leaves of tuliptree and American beech spilling from their buds. May will bring a change of pace and scene with a Shinrin-yoku or forest bathing walk in the Pinehurst Branch area of Rock Creek Park. Autumn will find us hiking the Western Ridge and Valley Trails during peak autumn foliage and fruiting season, stopping to study and admire trees along the route.

The April Boundary Bridge Walk will cover a 2.5 mile loop on natural surface trails with moderate uphill and downhill. The Fall Hike will traverse 4-6 miles, with uphill and downhill on natural surface trails which may be rocky and uneven.

Walk Among the Giants

B. Saturday, April 15 (8 am-Noon)

C. Sunday, July 23 (8 am-Noon)

D. Sunday, October 22 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Spring Walk: Wednesday, April 19 (10 am-Noon)

Summer Walk: Thursday, July 20 (10 am- Noon)

Fall Walk: Wednesday, October 25 (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

FREE

Saturday, April 22 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman

Free, but registration required.

Tom Horton describes the annual Rock Creek migration of herring in Bay Country: "No finer parade, or one more unappreciated, ever swung through this capital than the quicksilver legions of *Alosa pseudoharengus*, the common river herring." On our four-hour walk, we hope to view the spawning run and discuss opportunities for restoring fish migration to Rock Creek. We will visit the fish ladder construction site at Peirce Mill. Meet at the Cleveland Park Metro Station and end at the Woodley Park/National Zoo/Adams Morgan Station. 20th annual walk!

Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

- A. Saturday, April 22 – Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, MD (Mike Bowen)
 B. Sunday, April 30 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Mark England) **FULL**
 C. Saturday, May 6 – Occoquan Bay Wildlife Refuge, VA (Mike Bowen)
 D. Sunday, May 14 – Glover-Archbold Park, DC (John Bjerke)
 E. Saturday, May 20 – Great Falls Park, MD (John Bjerke) **FULL**
 Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34
 Entire series \$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.

A Spring Morning on Roosevelt Island

- Sunday, April 23 (8:30 am-12:30 pm)
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Come and explore the bottomland woods, shrub swamp, and freshwater marsh of Theodore Roosevelt Island, an 88-acre park in the Potomac River at the Fall line. Join our Senior Naturalist on this loop hike around the Island, where we'll keep our eyes open for seasonal blooms and ears open for early migrants - as well as all things Spring!

Bird ID Series: Spring Warblers

- A: Thursday, April 27 (7-9 pm)
 B: Saturday, April 29 (7-11:30 am)
 C: Sunday, May 7 (7-11:30 am)
 Leader: Mike Bowen
 Lecture only (A) members \$20; nonmembers \$28
 Walk B \$24/\$34; Walk C \$24/\$34
 Lecture and both walks: members \$62;
 nonmembers \$86

More than 30 species of warblers pass through the mid-Atlantic during spring migration—but finding and properly identifying these active songbirds can be a real challenge. Our leader, a long-time birder in the area, will use both slides and recordings during the evening class to introduce us to these species. Two half-day field trips to metro-area locations (exact locations chosen closer to the time) will take us to natural areas where we'll hope to hear and see a wide variety of warblers.

Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Rachel Carson Park

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

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

It's May - and All Is Abloom

- Wednesday, May 3 (10 am-12:30 pm)
 Leader: Marney Bruce
 Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

The display of spring wildflowers is remarkably rich in the varied habitats along the Potomac River close-in to our metro-area. From moist bottomlands to rocky, forested uplands, the woods in May beckon with blooms underfoot and spring-green leaves overhead. Our leader is excited to add the Lock 10 area along the C&O Canal to our spring flora destinations. *This walk will leave the towpath and follow natural surface trails, with some mild uphill and downhill.*

Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac

- Friday, May 5 (8:30 am-3 pm)
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Members \$30; nonmembers \$42

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.



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Mar 3-10	9 am	Birds: Imagined, Natural, Symbolic		30	Apr 15	all day	37th Annual Bloomin' Birdathon begins		30
Mar 4	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	Apr 19	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	14
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9	Apr 21	8 am	Spring in the Parks - Riverbend	Y	13
Mar 8	4 pm	Riley's Lock/Hughes Hollow bird walk		23	Apr 22	all day	March for Science		32
Mar 9	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22	"	7 am	Spring Early Birds - Patuxent	Y	15
Mar 11	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
"	"	Patuxent River Park bird walk		23	"	9 am	River Herring Return to Rock Creek		14
"	9:30 am	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22	Apr 23	8:30 am	A Spring Morning on Roosevelt Island	Y	15
"	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	Y	12	Apr 26	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
Mar 13	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian begins	Y	11	"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal C	Y	13
Mar 14	10 am	Tales and Trails spring session begins	Y	10	Apr 27	6:30 pm	Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101		7
"	4 pm	Riley's Lock/Hughes Hollow bird walk		23	"	7 pm	Bird ID Series: Spring Warblers	Y	15
"	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22	Apr 29	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
Mar 16	4 pm	Riley's Lock/Hughes Hollow bird walk		23	"	"	Chapman State Park bird walk		23
"	7 pm	Window into the World of Fungi		12	Apr 30	7 am	Spring Early Birds - Huntley Meadows	Y	15
"	"	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22	"	9 am	Botanical Gems: Rachel Carson Park	Y	15
"	"	Conservation Cafe	Y	28	May 1	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian Park begins	Y	11
Mar 17	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	11	May 3	10 am	It's May - and All is Abloom	Y	15
Mar 18	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	May 5	8:30 am	Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac	Y	15
"	9 am	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges		19	May 6	7 am	Spring Early Birds - Occoquan Bay		15
"	1:30 pm	Norther Virginia Advocacy Workshop		7	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
Mar 19	1 pm	Intro to WQM field workshop		22	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9
Mar 23	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	12	May 7	7 am	Bird ID Series: Spring Warblers field trip	Y	15
Mar 24	6 pm	Ponds Awaken to Spring at Rust	Y	11	"	8:30 am	Appalachian Spring	Y	18
Mar 25	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	May 10	8 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal D	Y	13
Mar 26	8 am	Late Winter Birding in Prince William Cty	Y	13	May 13	full day	Spring Hike on the ATTrail	Y	18
"	1 pm	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	Y	12	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Mar 28	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream		22	May 13	9:30 am	Know Your Invasive Plants		22
Mar 29	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	"	10 am	Butterflies of Worcester County	Y	18
"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal A	Y	13	May 14	7 am	Spring Early Birds - Glover-Archbold	Y	15
Mar 30	7:30 pm	Author Event - Walking Washington, DC		28	"	"	C&O Canal, MD Areas bird walk		23
Apr 1	8 am	Spring in the Parks - Jug Bay		13	May 15	6 pm	Author Event - Washington in Spring		30
"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	May 16	12:30 pm	Spring in 17 Syllables		18
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9	"	7 pm	Biodiversity begins	Y	24
Apr 2	8:30 am	Sights and Sounds of Early Spring	Y	13	May 17	10 am	Spring Hike on Sugarloaf	Y	18
Apr 5	9:30 am	Budbreak at TR Island	Y	13	"	7 pm	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22
Apr 6	7:30 pm	Intro to Wildflower ID	Y	13	May 18	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	28
Apr 7	6:45 pm	Evening on the Canal	Y	13	May 20	7 am	Spring Early Birds - Great Falls Park, MD	Y	15
Apr 8	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
"	10 am	Geology of Seneca Creek	Y	14	May 21	8 am	Spring in the Parks - Rock Creek	Y	13
Apr 9	1 pm	The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers	Y	14	"	8:30 am	Geology along the Gold Mine Loop	Y	18
Apr 10-14	8:30 am	Spring Break Camp	Y	8	"	9:30 am	Intro to WQM field workshop		22
"	6 pm	The Living Soil begins	Y	24	May 23	7:30 pm	Intro to Bird ID by Voice	Y	19
Apr 11	8 am	Pennyfield in the Spring, Tra-la! bird walk		23	May 24	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal E	Y	13
"	7 pm	Biology for Naturalists begins	Y	24	May 27	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22
Apr 12	9:30 am	Spring Wildflower and Budbreak Walk	Y	14	May 31	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal B	Y	13	"	9:30 am	Forest Bathing at Pinehurst Branch	Y	14
"	7 pm	Botany for Naturalists begins	Y	24	"	6 pm	Advocacy 201		7
"	"	Introduction to Ornithology begins	Y	25	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special Event ● Children and Family Program ● Adult Program ● Natural History Field Studies ● Rust (VA) Activities and Events <p>Y = Fee-based program</p> </div>				
Apr 13	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	28					
Apr 15	7 am	Blue Mash Nature Trail bird walk		23					
"	8 am	Walk Among the Giants B	Y	14					
"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		22					
"	10 am	Bird Egg-stravaganza	Y	28					

Appalachian Spring

Sunday, May 7 (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 rocky and uneven trails.

Spring Hike on the Appalachian Trail

Saturday, May 13 (full day hike)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Spring rains, warming temperature, and longer hours of daylight ignite a great burst of life in the valleys and ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. One of the best ways to explore this seasonal richness is 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 along the AT for around 2.5 miles, before retracing our steps. We'll cover around 5 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.*

Butterflies of Worcester County's Foster Tract

Saturday, May 13 (10 am-5 pm)

Leader: Rick Borchelt

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Join us for this first ANS foray to the newly-opened Foster Tract in Worcester Co., part of the Chesapeake Forest complex in the Nassawango Creek drainage. We should be able to see many of the Eastern Shore's common spring butterfly species here in a variety of sandy and marshy habitats, including a new location for the uncommon Dusted Skipper. The area also supports a good population of Festive Tiger Beetles, as well as offering good habitat for herps like Eastern Hognose Snake. After a thorough exploration of the east end of the Foster Tract, we'll take a short drive to known locations for another rare butterfly that may still be flying, the Frosted Elf, and its sundial lupine hostplant. We'll end the trip listening and looking for Prothonotary Warblers and other spring birds along the Nassawango.

Spring in 17 Syllables

Tuesday, May 16 (12:30-2 pm)

Leader: Julie Bloss Kelsey

Free, but registration is required.

FREE

The American Heritage Dictionary defines haiku as: *a Japanese lyric poem of a fixed, 17-syllable form that often simply points to a thing or a pairing of things in nature that has moved the poet.* What better time of year than spring to be moved by nature! Join Julie Bloss Kelsey, an award-winning haiku poet, for a walk at our Woodend Sanctuary and an opportunity to try your own hand at writing haiku and experiencing nature in a new way. Our leader is a volunteer Maryland Master Naturalist who completed her training with ANS at Woodend. More than 100 of her haiku have appeared in various publications.

Spring Hike on Sugarloaf

Wednesday, May 17 (10 am-3 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and

Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

The author and the artist of two books about Sugarloaf Mountain team up once again for a seasonal outing devoted to the botany, wildlife, geology, and history of our local monadnock in the rural Piedmont northwest of Washington, D.C. The 1.5-2.5 mile hike is timed to coincide with the budding and 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. Over lunch, Tina will show you how to approach a quick leaf sketch, and Melanie will introduce the concept of "forest bathing," time permitting. *Our hike includes uphill/downhill walking over rocky trails and a fairly steep ¼ mile hike up to the summit—all at a leisurely pace.*

Geology along the Gold Mine Loop at Great Falls

Sunday, May 21 (8:30-11:30 am)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Although the original Piedmont Upland forest in Great Falls Park, Maryland was felled for crops, pasture and the processing of gold ore, today's woods are notably thick and stately. We will hike about 4 miles, on unpaved trails, starting at the Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center. During the hike, we will visit the trenches, pits and ruins of the Maryland Mine, where gold ore was treated as recently as 1940, as well as look for the exploration diggings of the Atlantic Development Company, which once owned most of the parkland. *Note that although most of the hike will be flat and easy, it begins and ends with steep inclines and minor rock scrambling. The pace set and distance covered on our geology hikes will be faster and farther than our usual "naturalists' shuffle."*



Introduction to Bird ID by Voice

Tuesday, May 23 (7:30-9 pm)

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

Saturday, May 27 (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.

Natural Heritage Series: Elliott Island

Saturday, June 3 (2:30-11 pm)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Extensive wetlands border the Chesapeake Bay on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and the marshes near Vienna, MD are diverse, well-studied, and accessible. Hal Wierenga, who has conducted the state's Black Rail study, leads this exploration of the natural history and management of the Elliott Island marsh ecosystem. We'll identify marsh plants and search for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. We'll also discuss the effects of human activities on the marsh environment. Our foray continues into the night, when we'll listen for rails, frogs, owls, and Chuck-will's-widows. Note: our group will meet in Cambridge then carpool out to our field site.

Forest Bathing Walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island

Wednesday, June 7 (9:30 am-1 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join natural history author Melanie Choukas-Bradley for a *Shirin-Yoku* or forest bathing walk at Theodore Roosevelt Island. Numerous studies in Japan, Europe and North America have demonstrated the health benefits of spending quiet time immersed in nature, including lowered levels of the stress hormone cortisol, lowered blood pressure, increased immune system function, and elevated mood (things that ANS members already knew!). We will walk for about 2.5 miles at a slow pace and spend quiet time sitting and watching summer wildflowers and nectaring butterflies. Our leader says this walk is "more about being than IDing." She has portable forest bathing stools to loan to each participant for the duration of the walk. *Limited to 14 participants.*

Breeding Bird Walk at Sycamore Landing

Saturday, June 10 (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. At the Sycamore Landing area along the Potomac River and the C&O Canal near Poolesville, MD, we'll explore both bottomland and upland woods, plus wetland and edge habitat, to search for common as well as uncommon breeders. We'll discuss the breeding strategies of species such as Red-headed Woodpecker, American Redstart, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Gray Catbird, among others. We'll also consider the types of census techniques which ornithologists and citizen scientists use to determine population levels and trends. We'll walk up to 2.5 miles at a leisurely pace on natural surface paths and a quiet road. Our leader has participated in the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project.

Early Summer Butterflies of Gambrill State Park and the Frederick Watershed

Saturday, June 10 (10 am-5 pm)

Leader: Rick Borchelt

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Early June in the Catoctin Mountains offers an excellent window to observe many of Maryland's common summer butterflies, in addition to some rare or uncommon species. This trip will include short forays to search for three of these hard-to-find butterflies, depending on how the season progresses: Appalachian Azure, Indian Skipper, and Edwards' Hairstreak. The habitats we will visit include sites known for interesting dragonflies and other insects, as well as the occasional rattlesnake and black bear. *Expect some uphill/downhill walking on uneven and rocky natural surface trails.*

Ferns and Their Reproduction

Sunday, June 11 (9 am-Noon)

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

On this moderate hike in Turkey Run Park, just off the GW Parkway near McLean, VA, we will go beyond basic fern ID and delve into the amazing world of fern reproduction. We'll talk about how ferns normally reproduce, and some of the odd twists they take along the way. We'll hope to find and identify well over a dozen species of ferns and enjoy beautiful views of the Potomac River along the way. *Our hike of around 2.5 miles will be on mostly flat (but possibly very muddy) terrain along the River, but it includes a fairly-steep downhill and uphill stretch on a natural surface trail which is uneven and rocky in places. Also, be prepared for two rocky stream crossings.*

Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)
 Section A: June 14 - Pennyfield Lock
 Section B: June 21 - Riley's Lock
 Section C: July 19 - Carderock
 Section D: July 26 - Swain's Lock
 Leader: Stephanie Mason
 Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34
 Entire series \$86/\$122

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.

The Buzz on Bees and Wasps

Saturday, June 17 (9-11:30 am)
 Leader: Cathy Stragar
 Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

From solitary parasitic wasps to the highly social honey bee, from potter wasps to carpenter bees, these related insects form a fascinating and critically important part of the natural world. We'll take a look at their diversity, life histories, significant ecological roles, and worrisome threats facing bees and wasps. We'll spend our time outdoors, combing the Woodend Sanctuary for wasps and bees, identifying them, and observing their habits.

Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 17

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

Citizen
Science

It's (Almost) Summer Hike Along the Potomac

Sunday, June 18 (8 am-2:30 pm)
 Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar
 Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Join two naturalists to explore the (almost) summer richness of the varied habitats along the C & O Canal towpath and the Potomac River nearly 50 miles above the Canal's starting point in Georgetown, D.C. We'll hike from Point of Rocks to the Monocacy Aqueduct (5.6 miles) along the Towpath in our search for birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, amphibians, and summer plant life.

Advanced Dragonfly Studies: Common Emeralds and Skimmers of the Mid-Atlantic

Thursday, June 22 (7:30-9:30 pm)
 Sunday, June 25 (3/4 day field trip)
 Leader: Richard Orr
 Members \$46; nonmembers \$70
 Lecture only \$20/\$28

Feel like you're ready to "graduate" from our annual Introduction to Dragonfly and Damselfly class led by entomologist and dragonfly expert Richard Orr? Join us for his advanced series of classes, returning this year with field identification of Common Emeralds and Skimmers (Families Corduliidae and Libellulidae). Our instructor will combine an evening presentation with a field trip to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, where we'll hope to see many of these and other species in action. This is the first of three advanced classes which will cover field ID of all of the dragonfly and damselfly groups in the mid-Atlantic area. Just getting started in dragonflies? Our leader's introductory class coming up in August is for you.

Solstice Walk Among the Elders

Sunday, June 25 (9 am-1 pm)
 Leader: Carole Bergmann
 Members \$24; nonmembers: \$34

Montgomery County's forest ecologist leads this celebration of the botanical lushness of summer in the floodplain plant community along the Potomac River in Frederick and Montgomery Counties. Starting at the Monocacy Aqueduct, we'll have the chance to admire a magnificent, ancient Eastern Cottonwood, among many other bottomland woody and herbaceous plant species. Heading downriver to Dickerson Conservation Park, we'll search out the largest known tree in MD, an old American sycamore, as well as the co-champion Silver Maple in Montgomery County and all things green.

Six-legged Songsters of Summer

Thursday, June 29 (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.

Holiday on Wheels Along the Patuxent

Tuesday, July 4 (8:30 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Dust off your bike and join us to explore the woods and wetlands along the Patuxent River in Prince George's County, MD. We'll use the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Tour roadway, closed to cars on this day, to visit a variety of habitats in our search for summer activity in the natural world. We'll dismount often to look for wildflowers, birds, butterflies, and frogs, as we cover the Tour's reach from Patuxent River Park to Merkle Wildlife Refuge. Our round-trip ride will be between 5-8 miles. Bring your own bike.

Firefly Fling

Wednesday, July 5 (8-9 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Free, but registration required.

FREE

As dusk descends, come and enjoy nature's fireworks—the courting of fireflies over our Woodend fields and forests. The evening begins with a short discussion of the life history and behavior of these luminescent beetles. We'll then move outdoors to observe the various flash and light patterns of different species and try to “communicate” with these insects ourselves.

Art and Nature Journaling

Saturday, July 8 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Create an art journal page under the guidance of the artist of the Sugarloaf Mountain books and the illustrated Agricultural Reserve Map. Following a short stroll looking closely at nature, participants will share observations of native trees along the trail. Tina will show you how to create an art journal page using sketches and handwritten notes that reflect your walk in the woods. The only experience required is a love for our native woodland trees. Site for this outdoor workshop will be Black Hill Regional Park. *A list of art supplies will be provided with the confirmation letter.*

How Do Their Gardens Grow?

Saturday, July 15 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leaders: Liz Jones and Marney Bruce

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Here's your chance to visit the home gardens of two ANSers who have worked to reduce lawn coverage, increase food and shelter for wildlife, and incorporate native plants when possible. Liz and Marney will share their successes and failures on walks through their yards, both of which include water features. One yard is mostly shaded, while the second sports sun-loving plants in the front and shade-loving species in the back. Participants will divide into two groups, visiting one garden for roughly an hour before switching to the other site. Our destination gardens are both in the Bethesda, MD vicinity.

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

Geology of Northwest Branch

Wednesday, July 19 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Intro to Shorebirds

Thursday, July 20 (7:30-9:30 pm) & Saturday, July 22 (full day field trip)

Leaders: Cyndie Loeper and John Bjerke

Paddle on the Potomac

Friday, July 21 (9:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Stephanie Mason

B is for Butterfly

Saturday, July 22 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Sunset Stroll in the Hollow

Sunday, July 23 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Bugs 101

Thursday, July 27 (7:30-9:30 pm) & Saturday, July 29 (8:30 am-2 pm)

Leader: Nate Erwin

Water Quality Monitoring

Classes are for anyone who would like to become a volunteer stream monitor or who simply has an interest in learning about life in our streams. Classes are free to ANS members. **Register online at www.anshome.org as part of the adult foray program registration process.** To learn more about becoming a monitor, contact Cathy Wiss at cathy.wiss@anshome.org or call 301-652-9188 x19.

Macro ID Review & Quiz



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD
 Section A: Thursday, March 9 (6:30-9 pm)
 Section B: Saturday, March 11 (9:30 am-12 pm)
 Section C: Tuesday, March 14 (6:30-9 pm)
 (Sections A, B & C cover the same material)
 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.

Introduction to Water Quality Monitoring



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

Classroom Session

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD
 Section B: Thursday, March 16 (7-9:30 pm)
 Section C: Wednesday, May 17 (7-9:30 pm)
 (Both Sections B & C cover the same material)
 Fee \$15, waived for members and students earning SSL credit

In the classroom, we will explore how benthic macroinvertebrates – organisms that live on the bottom of our streams – help us assess stream health. We will learn how to identify these organisms to the taxonomic level of order through a PowerPoint presentation and by examining preserved specimens. Registration required.

Field Workshop

Section A: Sunday, March 19 (1-4 pm) site TBA
 Section B: Sunday, May 21 (1-4 pm) site TBA
 (Both sections A & B cover the same material)
 Fee \$15, 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.

How to Read Your Stream



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD
 Tuesday, March 28 (7-9:30 pm)
 Fee \$15, waived for members and students earning SSL credit

Learn about the influence of land uses on streams, stream character and dynamics, bank erosion, bar formation, substrate composition, different velocity-depth regimes, and the importance of riffles and riparian vegetation. 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 13 (9:30 am-noon)
 Fee \$15, waived for 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.

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

Weekly walks March through June. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at www.anshome.org/index.php/nature-programs/adults/free-birding-trips.

Have a Survey of Nesting and/or Wintering Birds on Your Property!

Product: Document containing narrative of bird activity; map of nests/bird territories; notes on other animals and plants seen

Cost: \$200/day; Total depends on number of days needed for adequate survey

Contact: For details and references – Napier Shelton, 202-338-7831, ewshelton@aol.com

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

Wednesday, March 8, Tuesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 16
Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD
Informal late afternoon walks until dusk

Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. **Meet time/place:** Meet promptly at 4 pm at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." We will be checking out the river, and the leader will not leave Riley's for Hughes Hollow until 5:30 pm. 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 11
Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince George's Co, MD

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

Wednesday, March 29
Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

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

APRIL

Tuesday, April 11
Pennyfield in the Spring, Tra-la!

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

Saturday, April 15
Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery County, MD
Half day. Both nesting and migrant songbirds, waterbirds, and possible raptors. Possible nesting birds include Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow Warbler. **Meet time/place:** 7 am at Zion Road parking lot. Waterproof footwear strongly recommended. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Marc Liebermann at mdlieberm@gmail.com.

Wednesday, April 26
Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 29 listing for details.

Saturday, April 29
Chapman State Park and Indian Head Rail Trail
Half day. The Indian Head Rail Trail is one of the best locations for Red-headed Woodpeckers in the state. We will also bird one of Audubon's Important Bird Areas, Chapman State Park, home to many of Maryland's coastal plain rare natural heritage resources. Come and see the Red-heads, and help us find migrants and early spring ephemerals! Joint trip with SoMD Audubon. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at the entrance to Mount Aventine-Chapman State Park (3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640). **Make reservation** with leader Lynne Wheeler at 301-751-8097 or comstockel@aol.com.

MAY

Sunday, May 14
C&O Canal, MD Areas

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

Wednesday, May 31
Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 29 listing for details.

JUNE

Sunday, June 4
Little Bennett Regional Park, Montgomery Co., MD
Half day. Nesting songbirds, possibly including Yellow-breasted Chat, Willow Flycatcher, Prairie Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am at Kingsley Trail parking area (see website for directions). Insect repellent highly advised, as is waterproof footwear. Extra water and sunscreen also recommended. **Make reservation** (12-person limit) with leader Paul DeAnna, 202-544-2680 or ppdeanna47@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 11
Fort C.F. Smith Park, Arlington, VA
One-third day. Nesting songbirds in woods, edge, and meadow habitat. There may be muddy conditions. **Meet time/place:** 7 am in parking lot. **Make reservation** (10-person limit) with leader Karen Fairweather, twofairs@msn.com or 703-841-1299.

Wednesday, June 28
Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 29 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.

The Living Soil

NATH1175E, 2 credits

Class night and time: Mondays, 6-8 pm

Class meetings: April 10-June 19

Field Trip dates: April 22 (9 am-1 pm), May 13 (9 am-2 pm) and June 3 (9 am-1 pm)

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

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

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

Biodiversity

NATH7301E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: May 16-June 13

Field Trip dates: May 20 and June 3

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$269

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 local and global biodiversity, and learn methods of classifying and protecting populations. Special emphasis is given to the sixth extinction event and species decline caused by humans. Discover diversity in differing environments on two field trips. Previous courses in Biology for Naturalists and Introduction to Ecology recommended. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Biology for Naturalists

NATH7110E, 2 credits

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: April 11-June 13

Field Trip dates: May 6 and June 3

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

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. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Botany for Naturalists

NATH7125E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: April 12-May 10

Field Trip dates: April 22 and May 6

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Sujata Roy

Study the science of plants, which provide the oxygen that supports life as we know it on earth. Learn about the internal workings of vascular and avascular plants, their life histories, special adaptations for growth and reproduction and their place in ecological cycles. Two field trips are planned: one to a local site of great plant diversity and one to a herbarium. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Support ANS — Monthly!

It's easy! Go to ANShome.org/Donate, or contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or loree.trilling@anshome.org.

Spring Courses April-June

Introduction to Ornithology

NATH7118E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: April 12-June 14

Field Trip dates: April 29 (8 am-noon, Hughes Hollow), May 20 (7 am-2 pm, Delaware coast) and June 3 (7 am-3 pm, Western MD)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD


Tuition: \$365

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, worldwide birds and bird-related activities. Field trips emphasize field identification, bird song and other behavior. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.



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

Wetland Ecosystems

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Terry McTigue

Insect Life

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Cathy Stragar

Summer Wildflower ID

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Sujata Roy

Summer Bird Life

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Gemma Radko

Butterflies of Late Summer

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

Instructor: Rick Borchelt

Ferns and Lycophytes

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

Instructor: Carl Taylor

Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

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

Registration may be completed:

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

BOOKSHOP OPEN!

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

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Nature Travel

Discover a new world!

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

Spain: Spring Bird Migration Across the Strait of Gibraltar

April 17-25, 2017

Stephen Daly & Terry Lawson Dunn

Spaces may be available - please call. Southern Spain's Andalucía region is a birdwatcher's paradise that attracts bird enthusiasts and ornithologists year round. But the best time of year to see birds is during the spring, when many migrating birds from Africa overlap with species already wintering in Spain. The area is, in fact, one of two primary routes for migratory birds between Europe and Africa (the other one being Istanbul). On this special spring tour, we will cover a rich variety of landscapes and habitats from our base near Barbate, Spain. We will travel from the mouth of the Rio Guadalquivir in Huelva province's Atlantic coast, to the Rio Guadarranque which flows from the sierras to the Mediterranean, in the hopes of seeing many of the nearly 400 bird species that can be found near the Straits of Gibraltar. The region is also known for its stunning medieval architecture, castle fortresses, Moorish history, and, of course, tapas and flamenco. Detailed itinerary and costs will be available soon.

Galapagos Islands: Darwin's Wild Classroom

June 23-July 2, 2017

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

Spaces may be available - please call.

Washington's Olympic Peninsula

FULL

TWO TRIPS: July 7-July 15, 2017 & August 12-20, 2017

Leaders: Mark Garland & Neal Fitzpatrick

These trips are full but please call to add your name to the waiting list.

Pack Your Travel Protection!

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



Photo by Terry Dunn

New Mexico: A Natural History Exploration

September 9-16, 2017

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn and David Krueper

New Mexico is known as the land of enchantment, but it's also a land of great diversity – diverse wildlife, diverse ecosystems influenced by a huge range of elevations and past geological events, diverse cultures where Native American and Spanish influences dominate, and a history that is unlike any other. Visiting New Mexico in September means catching the birds while they are migrating and the chile when it has just been roasted! Your exploration of New Mexico begins in Albuquerque; the second half of our trip will be based in Santa Fe. With excursions including the Petroglyph National Monument, Acoma Sky City (a Native American pueblo), Valles Caldera, Embudito Canyon and so much more, we'll also have time to explore the museums, architecture and historic sights of our base cities. ANS members' cost is \$2650, double occupancy from Albuquerque, NM.

Looking Ahead for Nature Travel:

Upcoming destinations under consideration for late 2017 to early 2019 include **Honduras** (The Lodge at Pico Bonito); **Southern California**; **Alaska**; **Yellowstone** (summer or fall); **Tanzania**; **Costa Rica**; **Southern Florida**; and **Australia**.

Please let us know your thoughts on these and any other trips you'd like to see offered. Contact us at carol.hayes@ANSHome.org. And watch our web page (ANSHome.org/travel) for updates as trips are added.

Honduras: Spectacular Pico Bonito Lodge

November 11-18, 2017

Leaders: Rob Gibbs & local guides

Pico Bonito Lodge, near the Caribbean Sea in northern Honduras, is the new "hot destination" for birding and nature tours in Central America. We will be following our very successful 2015 trip, exploring excellent trails through pristine forests adjacent to a large National Park. Details to follow soon on our webpage, or call/email Carol Hayes to have information sent to you.



Home for Sale - 6914Breezewoodterrace.com

This immaculate 5 bedroom, 3 bath Colonial home sits in a quiet cul-de-sac on a private wooded lot in the heart of the Tilden Woods neighborhood of North Bethesda. The exterior of the property invites the enjoyment of a picturesque and calming park-like setting featuring extensive landscaping, a private deck and hot tub, and in-ground pond fixtures with koi fish. The backyard provides a living sanctuary for nature, with unique garden features. Listed at \$825,000. Call Rob at 240-599-6247 for more info.



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Rent Woodend Mansion for Your Meetings

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

Woodend Restoration on the Move

We can't wait to get started on large scale restoration of the forests, meadows, streams and pond at Woodend Nature Sanctuary, our headquarters and wonderful oasis inside the Beltway. Our Blair Native Plant Garden and Meadow Restoration volunteers already know the joy of seeing native species flourish at Woodend, and we're looking forward to watching that resurgence of life on all 40 acres.

In November 2016, for the second time, the Montgomery County Board of Appeals approved a minor modification that would enable ANS to erect a deer fence around the 33 acres on the west side of Jones Mill Road at Woodend. We are eagerly awaiting the chance to bring back plant, insect, bird and butterfly species that have been lost to Woodend because of deer over browsing over the past several decades.

As recommended by the Board of Appeals, a team of ANS Staff, Board members and Volunteers have held several meetings with neighbors to plan for a larger Community Liaison Meeting about the restoration. That Community Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29 at 7 pm at Woodend Sanctuary.

Thank you to everyone who has taken time to write letters, testify, call and email in support of Woodend restoration. We feel confident that we will soon be on the way to bringing back biodiversity and revitalizing the natural habitats in our phenomenal nature sanctuary, for the good of the neighborhood and the greater DC region.

Bird Egg-stravaganza



Join us for an Egg Hunt,
Bird Crafts, and Prizes!

Bring your family to
Woodend Nature Sanctuary
April 15, 2017 | 10:00am to Noon

\$10 Child (Ages 10 & under)

FREE for Adults

Online registration opens March 15
www.anshome.org/birdegg

WEEKLY PLANT CLINIC

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



Photo by Jim Hall

Conservation Café

Enjoy a fun evening with friends, learn about hot environmental topics, and support ANS conservation work!

Join us in the Woodend Mansion library for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on a variety of nature conservation topics.

Our first speaker will be Jim Hall, a long-time ANS stream monitor. Jim recently traveled to Standing Rock to be with the water protectors there, and found that the experience confirmed and deepened his commitment to his work as a water protector here.

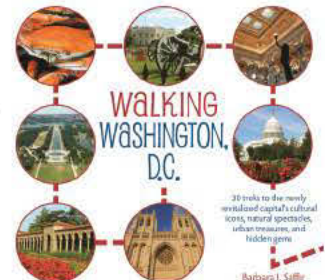
Check our website under Adult Programs for information about the speakers and a link to register. 100% of your \$10 registration fee goes to support our ANS Conservation Program!

- Thursday, March 16, 7-8:30 pm: Jim Hall, Stories from Standing Rock
- Thursday, April 13, 7-8:30 pm: Sarah Anderson, Urban Nature for All: Inclusivity and the Environmental Movement
- Thursday, May 18, 7-8:30 pm: Jim Lyons: What Now? Public Lands and the Environment under Trump
- Thursday, June 8, 7-8:30 pm: Scott Kratz, The 11th Street Bridge Project

Author Event

Join author and insider **Barbara J. Saffir** as she gives the low-down on 30 self-guided tours of Washington, DC that blend culture, nature, newsy tidbits, and plain old fun on **Thursday, March 30 at 7:30 pm at Woodend Sanctuary.**

Barbara's book *Walking Washington, D.C.* is a must for inquisitive urban adventurers, whether they're locals discovering their city with fresh eyes or visitors who are in town for a few days and seeking a truly authentic D.C. experience.



RSVP for this free event at www.anshome.org. Light refreshments served.

WILDERNESS PRESS

Photo by Jenny Brown



Thank you to the Whole Kids Foundation for a \$2,000 grant to make improvements to the Woodend Children's Garden. The money will buy fruit plants and plant structures, refurbish several raised beds, and purchase food preservation equipment. An open house for the public is scheduled for Saturday, June 10 from 10 am to 12 pm.

Photo by Kristin Cook, Chesapeake Climate Action Network



On January 28, 2016, intrepid Conservation Director Eliza Cava and Camp Director Nora Kelly jumped into the Potomac at National Harbor on January 28th to raise money for ANS Conservation and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN). We raised \$3,852 in the Polar Bear Plunge! Thank you to all our donors! Who's jumping in with us next year?



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

Subpoena Update

On January 12, 2017, Magistrate Judge Sullivan heard argument in federal court in Greenbelt, Maryland on Pulte's motion to enforce its subpoenas. Pulte subpoenaed Audubon Naturalist Society and our Save Ten Mile Creek coalition partners as third parties in Pulte's suit against Montgomery County, which seeks damages for lost development rights. ANS's attorney from Arent Fox LLP in Washington, Don Mitchell, argued passionately on behalf of our cross-motion to quash the subpoenas, saying that the subpoenas essentially constituted a tax on the exercise of the citizens' groups' First Amendment rights. Mr. Mitchell represented ANS and all of its subpoenaed coalition partners pro bono. Lisa Alexander represented ANS in the gallery along with many coalition partners. We think it made a difference for the judge to see so many residents show up to hear the arguments.

Judge Sullivan substantially agreed that the Pulte subpoenas were overbroad, and directed Pulte to submit five new requests, in plain English, within 21 days of the hearing. The judge indicated that he was not inclined towards allowing Pulte to require us to produce any of our internal communications. Judge Sullivan directed counsel for Pulte and Mr. Mitchell to sit down, face-to-face, to discuss whether the five requests would be acceptable to the citizens' groups.

Pulte's five new document requests, however, effectively synthesized their earlier subpoena requests with regard to *external* communications, but are, in some areas, even broader. In addition, Pulte included among the five, a new request for "All science and data regarding all watersheds or subwatersheds that discharge into Little Seneca Lake (the "Watersheds"), including Ten Mile Creek."

On February 8, 2017, Mr. Mitchell met with Pulte's counsel to discuss these requests. He offered to provide any *original* data that ANS or any other subpoena recipient collected itself (as opposed to what it may have gotten from a library etc.), and discussed a possible compromise regarding all their other requests. Of course much of our Ten Mile Creek water quality monitoring data is already available to the public on the ANS web site! On Valentine's Day, Mr. Mitchell was informed that there would be no compromise with Pulte. We will file a paper with the court on February 21, 2017, outlining the dispute. We expect to be back in court this month.

These are important questions with important consequences. We will stand firm in our defense of the right of residents to remain actively involved with sound land use decision-making processes in our region. ANS and its coalition partners heartily thank Mr. Mitchell and Arent Fox for their spirited defense of our rights as citizens' groups to work to protect the environment.



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



Please join us at Woodend for these upcoming events celebrating our 120th Anniversary:

March 3 – March 10: **Birds: Imagined, Natural, Symbolic:** a traveling exhibit of fiber arts produced by the Chicago-based fiber artists group, *Women's Journeys in Fiber*. The exhibit will be open to the public free of charge weekdays from 9 am – 5 pm (Tuesday and Wednesday until 7 pm).

- Friday, March 3: 5:30-7:30 pm **Opening Reception** featuring remarks from two of the artists.
- Sunday, March 5: 2-4 pm **Nature as Inspiration.** An open forum for ANS members to display and talk about their own artwork that has been inspired by birds.
- Thursday, March 9: 1:30-3 pm **Tea with ANS Executive Director,** Lisa Alexander, and her mom, Gretchen Alexander, whose work is featured in the exhibit.

Monday, May 15: 6 pm **Washington in Spring: A Nature Journal for a Changing Capital.** Nature walk and discussion with author Bob Musil.

For more information about these events, please contact Allie Henn at Allie.Henn@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x12.

40 ANS members joined us as our 120th Anniversary Opening Event on January 19 for the screening of the video: *Audubon Naturalist Society, the First 100 Years*.

On February 17, 35 people enjoyed a tour of historic Woodend Mansion led by ANS member and history buff, Allen Browne (pictured below). Sarah Rogers, Executive Director of Heritage Montgomery, also joined us.



Photo by Allie Henn

Thank you to our Legacy Society Members

As we celebrate our 120th year, we would like to recognize and thank all of our **Legacy Society** members – ANS supporters who have made a legacy gift to ANS in their will. Including a provision in your will for ANS makes a huge difference to our work. It could be a gift of a specific dollar amount or asset or a percentage of your estate. Thank you and a big welcome to our newest **Legacy Society** member, Karen Wilhelm!



In honor of our 120th anniversary, we are recognizing our **Legacy Society** members with a special pin. If you have left a bequest to ANS in your will and have not yet received your pin, please let us know. We will be happy to send one to you for you to wear with pride at all ANS programs and events.

For more information on our ANS Legacy pin, how to make a bequest or other legacy gift, please contact ANS Director of Development Jacky Wershale at 301-652-9188 x31 or [jacky.wershale@anshome.org](mailto:wershale@anshome.org).

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY'S Bloomin' Birdathon

37th Annual ANS Bloomin' Birdathon

April 15–May 22, 2017

Calling all novice and experienced bird and wildflower enthusiasts of all ages. Join us in our annual fundraising event. Count as many wildflower or bird species as you can over one 24-hour period and solicit sponsors to donate to ANS based on the number of species you see.

Join a team, sponsor a team, or participate with a gift to the Bloomin' Birdathon. All donations are tax deductible and directly benefit ANS's environmental and education programs.

To learn more, register and sponsor – go to anshome.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Audubon After Dark

Where your imagination can
come out to play...

Thursday, June 1, 2017

Nature-themed cocktail reception,
elegant dinner and silent auction.

Catering by Main Event Caterers

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS November 2016-January 2017

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In honor of Leah Mazade

Polly Hodges

In honor of Laura Mol

Gay Gellhorn

In honor of Cecily Nabors

Pamela Graham

In honor of Alison Pearce

Mary Scott; Terrence Sullivan

In honor of Bob & Marianne Smythe

Katherine & Robert Newman

In honor of Rebecca Turner

Joan & Ralph Turner

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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



MARCH FOR SCIENCE

Members and Friends: Join us as we **March for Science** on **Earth Day, April 22.**

Let's tell our legislators that we need science-based policy to tackle today's environmental challenges.

Poster-making Party at Woodend, April 21 from 4-6 pm.

Email Alison.Pearce@anshome.org for more information. **STAY TUNED** for email and registration links.



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