



# NATURALLY LATINOS



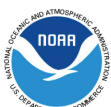
## CONFERENCE

An Audubon  
Naturalist Society  
(ANS) Hispanic  
Heritage Month  
Celebration

Wednesday  
September 13, 2017  
9:00 am–6:00 pm



ecoLatinos



# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## NATURALLY LATINOS CONFERENCE

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Hispanic  
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<b>8:45 – 11:15</b>	<b>Registration</b> —Great Hall
<b>9:30 – 11:15</b>	<b>Job Fair</b> —Great Hall & Conference Room
<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Tour of the grounds</b> —Gift Shop entrance Led by Bilingual Naturalist Gina Ghertner (tours in both English & Spanish)
<b>11:15 – 11:30</b>	<b>Welcome</b> —Terrace
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<b>Opening Panel—Latin Leaders in the Environmental Field: Good times, Challenges, and Powerful Experiences</b> —Terrace
<b>12:30 – 1:15</b>	<b>Lunch with Local Environmental Leaders &amp; Networking</b> —Buffet in Great Hall, seating on the Terrace
<b>1:15 – 2:15</b>	<b>Keynote Address: Our communities, our environment: The importance of engagement— Lisa García, Vice President, Litigation for Healthy Communities, Earthjustice</b> —Terrace
<b>2:30 – 3:30</b>	<b>Breakout Sessions</b> <b>The Advantages and Challenges of Biodiversity in the DC Region by Alonso Abugattas</b> —Library  <b>Climate Change and our Latino Communities by Isha M. Renta Lopez</b> —Dining Room  <b>Naturally Latinos Mentoring Program by Serenella Linares, School Programs Manager/Naturalist, Audubon Naturalist Society; in partnership with Chante Coleman, Director, Choose Clean Water Coalition</b> —Meeting Room (Upstairs)
<b>3:40 – 4:00</b>	<b>Lessons from Today by Jorge Bogantes Montero</b> —Terrace
<b>4:00 – 5:00</b>	<b>Chispa Maryland Promotores—“Inpowering” Latinos by Ramón Palencia-Calvo</b> —Terrace
<b>5:00 – 6:00</b>	<b>Networking Reception &amp; Raffle</b>

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Opening Panel—Latin Leaders in the Environmental Field: Good times, Challenges, and Powerful Experiences

**CHAIR:**

Nydia Ocasio, *Community Relations/Outreach Specialist, M-NCPPC, Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County*

**PANEL:**

- Angela Adrar, *Executive Director, Climate Justice Alliance; Founder of EcoHermanas*
- Pablo Blank, *Immigrant Integration Programs Manager, CASA*
- Johana Vicente, *Community Organizer, Chispa Maryland—Maryland LCV Education Fund*
- Uriyoan Colon-Ramos, *Professor, Milken Institute School of Public Health, George Washington University*

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## Lunch with Local Environmental Leaders

Over lunch, hear remarks from some of our key Latino elected officials and environmental leaders: **Delegate David Fraser Hidalgo**, Maryland District 15; **Delegate Alfonso Lopez**, Virginia District 49; and **Adam Ortiz**, Director, Prince George's County Department of the Environment.

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## Breakout Sessions

### **The Advantages and Challenges of Biodiversity in the DC Region**

by **Alonso Abugattas**, *Natural Resources Manager, Arlington County Parks*

Naturalists and people interested in nature are lucky to live in the DC Region.

At the southern limits of Northern populations, northern limits of Southern populations, near the coast but not too distant from the mountains, we have a great wealth of biodiversity. That biodiversity leads to some unique opportunities and challenges for the diverse people who study and enjoy the natural world around here. Alonso Abugattas, the Capital Naturalist and the Natural Resources Manager for Arlington County Parks, will share perspectives and experiences from his work.

### **Climate Change and our Latino Communities by Isha M. Renta Lopez,**

*Meteorologist, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

During this session, attendees will learn about climate change from different points of view. See the scientific data that describes how our climate is changing and hear stories about the impacts that those changes are having on our communities. Learn about what's being done to combat climate change and how you can help at home.

### **Naturally Latinos Mentoring Program by Serenella Linares,**

*School Programs Manager/Naturalist, Audubon Naturalist Society;*

*in partnership with Chante Coleman, Director, Choose Clean Water Coalition*

Are you starting to develop your career in the environmental field? Or, are you someone with experience willing to nurture and guide the next generation of professionals? Join us upstairs for this session. We will pair young and seasoned professionals for a relationship-building and networking opportunity to launch our mentoring program. Mentors and mentees will have the chance to get to know one another and create a plan for support over the coming year.

### **Ramón Palencia Calvo—Closing Session—Chispa Maryland Promotores—**

**“Inpowering” Latinos by Ramón Palencia-Calvo, Latino Outreach Director,**

*Chispa Maryland—Maryland LCV Education Fund*

This session will explore Chispa Maryland's Environmental Justice and Action Promotores Program and how this program engages Latino community members where they work, play, pray and learn to increase understanding of environmental issues and community engagement. The Promotores Program is an important way to reach residents that live in communities impacted by environmental injustices with limited access to environmental programs. This session will explore issues and discuss challenges, impacts, lessons learned, and best practices.

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## Networking Reception

Enjoy the beautiful setting at Woodend Sanctuary and have a moment to meet the wonderful people that share your work for a healthier environment.

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

**Angela Adrar**  
Executive Director,  
Climate Justice Alliance



Angela is the Executive Director of the Climate Justice Alliance which brings communities together to address the root causes of our climate catastrophe. Angela, a Latina immigrant, proudly comes from a lineage of women farmers and labor activists in Colombia. She has been a leader and outspoken advocate for powerful and grounded social movements led by women and people of color grassroots for decades—from legacy organizations such as the Rural Coalition, La Via Campesina North America, to the US Food Sovereignty Alliance, and Ecohermanas. Angela has worked with fishers and farmers in the US, Colombia, West Africa, and Vietnam working on participatory and earth-based stewardship at the intersection of agriculture, energy, and climate. She brings her collective leadership experience to compliment Climate Justice Alliance's already leader-full movement of over 50+ grassroots organizations and its evolving Just Transition vision.

**Alonso Abugattas**  
Park Naturalist,  
Department of Parks and  
Recreation; Arlington, VA



Alonso Abugattas is a well-known local naturalist, environmental educator and storyteller in the Washington, D.C. area. He is the natural resources manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation and the co-chair for the Beltway Chapter of Region 2 of the National Association for Interpretation. He has been trained as a master gardener, was made an honorary Virginia Master Naturalist for his role in starting two chapters and serves as an instructor for both. He is a co-founder of the Washington Area Butterfly Club and has held several offices, including president, for the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Alonso posts regular nature notes using his own photography in his personal blog and Facebook group called "Capital Naturalist".

**Pablo Blank**  
Immigrant Integration  
Programs Manager, CASA



Pablo Blank has been living in the DC metro area for 11 years. He serves as CASA's Immigrant Integration Programs Manager, supervising programs such as Citizenship, Financial Education, Tax Preparation, and MD driver's license for undocumented immigrants. Prior to CASA, Pablo worked for Identity Inc., a Montgomery County-based nonprofit organization serving at-risk Latino youth and their families. Mr. Blank also worked for the Embassy of Argentina in the US, as Coordinator of their Cultural, Environmental and International Cooperation office, and worked for fifteen years in Argentina for organizations such as Coca Cola Andina, and Ferrocarril General Belgrano. Pablo holds a Master's degree in Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility. He practices his passion for environmental causes serving on the Board of Conservation Montgomery, an environmental organization focused on tree conservation and clean water in Montgomery County, MD. He is also a member of "Granito de Arena" a Latino organization focused on environmental issues.

**Jorge Bogantes Montero**  
Natural Resources  
Specialist, Anacostia  
Watershed Society



Jorge Bogantes Montero is a Natural Resources Specialist at the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) in Bladensburg, MD. At AWS Jorge has led several ecological restoration projects on public parklands in the Anacostia River and its tributaries including wetland restoration, tree plantings, meadow creation, submerged aquatic vegetation propagation, and invasive plant management. Mr. Bogantes is dedicated to educating local populations about environmental issues and the quality of water within our watershed, while also participating in outreach events to local communities. Jorge has a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management and Protection from the Universidad Estatal a Distancia in San Jose, Costa Rica where he is from. Jorge also supervises AWS' River Restoration interns, is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and has extensive experience in biodiversity conservation, environmental education and community outreach. Before moving to the U.S., Jorge worked in Costa Rica on issues related to tropical biodiversity conservation.

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**Uriyoán Colón-Ramos**  
ScD, MPA Professor,  
Milken Institute School  
of Public Health, George  
Washington University



Dr. Uriyoán Colón-Ramos is a public health nutrition investigator with expertise working in Latin America, the Caribbean, and minority populations in the United States. She is trilingual (Spanish, French and English) and has worked extensively in the field of nutrition in global health through collaborations with the Instituto Costarricense de Investigación y Enseñanza en Nutrición y Salud, the Pan American Health Organization, the University of Puerto Rico, the University of Costa Rica, the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública de Mexico, and the World Food Programme, among others. Her work contributed to the knowledge of existing dietary disparities among Hispanic subgroups by country of origin, translation of science into nutrition policy in Latin America, and the social and environmental determinants of dietary behaviors among vulnerable populations in the US, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Colón-Ramos holds a Bachelor of Arts, and a Master's

in Public Administration from Cornell University. She obtained her doctorate in public health nutrition from the Harvard School of Public Health under a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Fellowship. She was the recipient of a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow to complete her postdoctoral studies at the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health in the United States. In 2004 the United Nations University named her an emerging leader in nutrition in Latin America. She is currently the co-Principal Investigator of Water UP! ([www.waterup.org](http://www.waterup.org)) of the Avance Center Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health grant from the CDC, and the Principal Investigator of 'Water UP!

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**Lisa Garcia**  
Vice President,  
Litigation for Healthy  
Communities, Earthjustice



As the Vice President of Litigation for Healthy Communities, Lisa Garcia harts Earthjustice's course in groundbreaking and high-impact litigation to protect communities and families from the wide range of pollution issues that confront them on

a daily basis. For decades, Earthjustice has worked at the regional and national levels to ensure widespread protections from air and water pollution and exposure to toxic chemicals. Lisa works to continue and strengthen Earthjustice's legacy of winning protections for these families and communities. Prior to coming to Earthjustice, Lisa served in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice at the U.S Environmental Protection Agency, a role where she elevated environmental justice issues to the highest levels of the agency. She helped draft and implement Plan EJ 2014, EPA's roadmap to integrating and strengthening environmental justice throughout its programs, activities, and decisions.

Garcia led the Environmental Justice Interagency Workgroup with other Federal agencies—including the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce. Previous to her role at the EPA, Garcia served as the Chief Advocate for Environmental Justice and Equity at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In that position, she developed statewide environmental justice initiatives to tackle critical environmental challenges, and served as co-chair of the Governor's Environmental Justice Interagency Task Force. Garcia also served as Assistant Attorney General for the New York State Attorney General, where she represented various state agencies in environmental litigation matters and defended New York's Brownfields Cleanup Program.

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**Serenella Linares Rivera**  
School Programs  
Manager, Audubon  
Naturalist Society



As School Programs Manager at Audubon Naturalist Society, Serenella Linares is dedicated to sparking nature curiosity and stewardship through environmental education. Serenella is especially interested in providing access to environmental education for immigrant and stressed communities. Prior to her work at Audubon Naturalist Society, Ms. Linares served as a Seasonal Park Naturalist at Mount Rainier Nature Center for four years, where she developed nature programs, developed outreach events to hispanic communities, and organized the annual Spring Greening Fair, an event dedicated to promote environmentally friendly behavior for families. Ms. Linares holds a Bachelor's degree in General Biology from the Universidad Metropolitana de Puerto Rico and a Master's degree in Atmospheric Sciences from Howard University. In addition, she has done graduate work in Mycology at the University of Maryland. Serenella has been a recipient of a grant from Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research and has been awarded at a National level "Best Oral Presentation" by the American Mycological Society and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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**Nydia Ocasio**  
Community Relations/  
Outreach & Public Affairs  
Specialist, Maryland-  
National Capital Park and  
Planning Commission  
(M-NCCPC), Department  
of Parks and Recreation



Nydia Ocasio is a native of Puerto Rico who has served in the Parks and Recreation field for 27 years and a Latina leader and advocate in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Nydia is passionate about empowering Latino communities through mentoring programs to young Latinas, expanding access to local resources for Hispanic communities, and organizing focus groups, as well as supporting projects involving access to Recreation. Ms. Ocasio leads a committee for the organization of the M-NCCPC Hispanic Festival, one of the biggest festivals in the DMV area, where she pioneered the environmental education section with a designated recycling area. She serves on several committees and initiatives to assist in the organization of special events and County programs under the Transforming Neighborhood Initiatives throughout Prince George's county. Nydia Ocasio is an active member of several non-profit organizations that support education for people with disabilities and autism, youth education and leadership, help for the homeless and domestic violence and human trafficking. Nydia is currently an active member and Chair

of the Membership Committee for the National Recreation and Parks Association Ethnic Minority Society and serves on several Boards throughout Prince George's County. She has received numerous awards including The Maryland Comptroller's Medallion for serving the citizens in Maryland, A Latina Empowering Prince George's Award for Community Service; and recently was recognized as one of the 100 most influential Latinos in the Metropolitan Area by *El Tiempo Latino* Powermeter 100.

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**Ramón Palencia Calvo,**  
Director, Chispa de  
Maryland, League of  
Conservation Voters



As the Director of Chispa Maryland (the Latino Outreach Program of the Maryland League of Conservation Voters Education Fund) Ramón is committed to raising environmental awareness and promoting civic participation in this growing segment of Maryland's population. Since joining Maryland League of Conservation Voters (LCV) in 2014, he has developed and partnered with a number of Latino leaders, residents, and organizations by providing educational and engagement opportunities on environmental health, stewardship and climate change. Prior to joining Maryland LCV, he has worked conducting research and outreach on environmental and social issues for over

10 years. Most recently he served as the Latin American Climate and Energy Fellow at the Worldwatch Institute, identifying social, political and economic opportunities to promote renewable energy in Central America, and creating partnerships to advance low carbon development.

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**Isha M. Renta Lopez**  
Meteorologist, National  
Weather Service, National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration



Isha M. Renta is a meteorologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) in the Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office, located in Sterling, VA. She began her professional career as a meteorologist in 2010 with the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD). Before her work at NSWCDD, Isha worked as a Graduate Research Fellow at Howard University, and was a student intern at various organizations including the National Science Foundation, NWS Baltimore/Washington, NOAA's Hurricane Research Division, and NOAA's Environmental Modeling Center/Marine Modeling and Analysis Branch. Isha has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, a Master's in Atmospheric Sciences from Howard University, and is currently pursuing her Ph.D.

in the same field. She is also an active member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Isha actively educates and inspires in local communities about STEM careers. She also established a networking and mentoring group that helps increase awareness of opportunities for Latinos in the atmospheric sciences (previously known as PR-Atmos, now called "Puerto Ricans in the Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology"). One of her most recent accomplishments is the increase in outreach to the Hispanic community through her work at the NWS Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office by offering Spanish services, products and media interviews.

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**Johana Vicente**  
Community Organizer,  
Maryland League of  
Conservation Voters  
Education Fund



Johana Vicente joined Chispa Maryland in 2014 as a community organizer. She is currently working with Latinx communities in Prince George's County and Baltimore to advocate for environmental justice at the local and state level. Johana Vicente is a passionate advocate for justice, making sure her community has access to clean air and water. Johana has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Mount St. Mary's University and recently graduated with a Masters in Social Work from University of Maryland.

# GREEN JOBS FAIR

College students, vibrant retirees, Latinx professionals with a desire to give back to nature and an interest in the environment: find short-term and long-term paid and volunteer opportunities in the environmental industry with nonprofit, government and private sector employers.

*Thank you to Darius Stanton II, Diversity Workgroup Staffer for the Chesapeake Research Consortium, Chesapeake Bay Program, for organizing the Green Jobs Fair.*

## Thank You to Our Participating Employers & Exhibitors

- Audubon Naturalist Society
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Caren Madsen Consulting Group
- Conservation Montgomery
- EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- Hispanic Access Foundation
- Lillie Leaf Solutions
- Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- One Montgomery Green
- Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- RiverCorps / Latin American Youth Center
- Student Conservation Association
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

# 2<sup>do</sup> Festival del Rio Anacostia

## Entrada y Estacionamiento Gratuitos

Sábado 14 de Octubre, 2017 11am-4pm

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# THANK YOU TO...

Samantha's Restaurant for catering our reception and La Chiquita Restaurant for catering our lunch.

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## Our Planning Committee

- **Serenella Linares Rivera**, School Programs Manager, Audubon Naturalist Society (co-chair)
- **Eliza Cava**, Director of Conservation, Audubon Naturalist Society (co-chair)
- **Darius A. Stanton II**, Diversity Workgroup Staffer, Chesapeake Research Consortium, Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- **Isha M. Renta Lopez**, Meteorologist, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- **Mariah Davis**, Field Manager, Choose Clean Water Coalition
- **Nydia Ocasio**, Community Relations/Outreach Specialist, M-NCPPC, Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County
- **Ramón Palencia-Calvo**, Latino Outreach Director, Chispa Maryland—Maryland LCV Education Fund
- **Ruby Stemmler**, CEO, EcoLatinos Consulting LLC
- **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission** for donating printed materials, including flyers, posters, and this program.
- Conference management support provided by **EcoLatinos Consulting LLC**.
- On-site translation support provided by **Gina Ghertner**.
- Flyer, program and champion posters by **Seaberry Design**.



# LATINX ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS: LOCAL LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Featured within the rooms of the Woodend Mansion today are Latinx environmental champions from around the DMV region, who are making contributions to nature and the environment. Enjoy their stories below.

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**Adam Ortiz**  
Director, Department  
of the Environment for  
Prince George's County



As Director for the Department of the Environment for Prince George's County, MD, Adam Ortiz heads a 400 person, \$160M agency dedicated to recycling, composting, clean water, renewable energy and humane animal care. Since

his assignment in 2012, the County moved from 11th to 1st in the State for waste diversion, including an award-winning food scrap compost program, and has been recognized by the Washington Post. He launched an innovative public-private partnership stormwater retrofit program that is restoring local streams while creating green jobs, an effort recognized by the Aspen Institute, Governing Magazine, Clinton Global Initiative and The White House. Previously, Adam served three terms as Mayor of Edmonston, Maryland, a diverse, working class town outside of Washington, D.C. Two of his many accompaniments consist of an inclusive immigrant-engagement effort, and building the East Coast's greenest street. The Edmonston

Green Street is a model of sustainability, utilizing natural bioretention for polluted storm water in an urban setting, high efficiency LED streetlights powered by wind energy, native plants and trees, improved bike and pedestrian safety, with more than 60% local minority contracting, and has received recognition as a Champion of Change by The White House and a Bright Idea Award from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, among other organizations. As a volunteer, Mr. Ortiz is a member of the Local Government Advisory Council to the EPA Administrator and served as President of the Maryland Mayor's Association (2009-2010). He was born and raised in New York's Hudson Valley and has a B.A. in Public Policy from Goucher College in Towson, Maryland.

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**David Fraser-Hidalgo**  
Delegate, District 15,  
Maryland House of  
Representatives



David Fraser-Hidalgo has represented District 15 in Montgomery County in the House of Delegates of the Maryland General Assembly since 2013. He is the vice-chair of the Montgomery County

Delegation and a member of the Environment and Transportation Committee. Mr. Fraser-Hidalgo believes that the most important challenge of our time is climate change and our last chance to address this challenge is now. He understands that if we don't expedite our transition to a sustainable energy economy and away from a carbon based economy in the next few years we will doom our planet and our kids, which will mark the end of human life on Earth as we know it today. It is his firm belief in this concept that led him to work so hard to ban hydraulic fracturing, promote electric vehicles, and support the MD Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo participates in the Montgomery County Minority Legislative Breakfast, a joint effort on behalf of the African American, Asian and Latino business communities to discuss legislative issues that affect them. David is also secretary and previous vice-chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus in the Maryland General Assembly. In 2015, Fraser-Hidalgo was named Legislator of the Year by the League of Conservation Voters for his work on the hydraulic fracking moratorium. In 2016, he was named Legislator of the Year by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. In 2017, David passed the first Legislative Hydraulic Fracturing Prohibition in the United States and The Clean Cars Act of 2017, which will extend the EV incentive to 2020.

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### Dr. Patricia Delgado Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks



Born and raised in Costa Rica, Patricia Delgado is currently the Superintendent of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary managing 1,700 acres of natural lands along the Patuxent River Estuary. She coordinates and implements research, education, stewardship, and volunteer-driven programs. As a scientist, Patricia believes in the important role of science in supporting education, resource conservation, and management. Before joining Jug Bay, Patricia worked for six years with Maryland DNR as the research coordinator of the Maryland Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. In this capacity, Patricia coordinated and conducted monitoring and research projects to better understand the effects of climate change on aquatic resources, which she continues to oversee today at Jug Bay. Patricia also worked four years at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where she gained experience with coastal management issues.

As a child, Patricia grew up in the country, surrounded by

nature, which planted the seed for her curiosity and passion for the environment. Patricia moved to the city for her university studies, where she obtained a B.S. in Marine Biology from Universidad Nacional de Heredia. As an undergraduate, Patricia had many opportunities to discover the beautiful national parks of her home country and learn how local communities depended on their natural resources. Working as a research assistant at the university, she gained invaluable experience studying the mangrove forests and working with the local communities. With the help of a USAID scholarship, Patricia came to the United States where she enrolled at Louisiana State University. She obtained Master's and Doctorate degrees in Oceanography and Coastal Sciences.

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### Albert Arevalo Volunteer Coordinator– Brookside Gardens Nature Center, DC Coordinator– Latino Outdoors



Albert Arevalo is the Volunteer Coordinator at Brookside Gardens Nature Center, part of the Montgomery County Parks and Planning Commission. In his work, he is committed to

increasing access of the Hispanic community to public lands and educating students about opportunities for careers in the environmental field. Albert is currently working on the Nature Ambassadors program. The program is designed to expose high school students to environmental careers by allowing them to work on environmental issues using their high school volunteer service hours requirement. Some students enjoy the program so much they choose to serve beyond their requirements. As Albert states “**Green tech and jobs are for everyone.**”

Albert also volunteers as Latino Outdoors' DC Coordinator. Latino Outdoors is a non-profit that brings culture into the outdoor narrative and connects Latinx communities and leadership with nature and outdoor experiences. Through the Summer Seekers program, Arevalo has connected minorities to paddle nights, rock climbing events, introductory hiking programs, and other outdoor opportunities. Albert helps families and youth connect with nature, engage and inspire Latino leadership, and empower communities to explore and share their stories in defining the Latino Outdoors identity. Albert is also dedicated to bringing awareness of the fragility of nature to the general public and emphasizing our crucial role in protecting it by helping others reconnect to their natural roots. He has partnered with a variety of organizations that share the vision of Latino Outdoors. In May 2017, Albert was selected as a Chesapeake Regional Fellow for the Environmental Leadership Program.

## Environmental Justice and Action Promotores, Chispa de Maryland—League of Conservation Voters Fund

From left to right, the 14 Promotores are: Mayra Patricia Coreas, Elsa Aracely Vargas, María V. Marroquin, Edith Morejón Márquez, Rosario Reyes, Ramón Reyes, Gladis López, María del Rosario De León Barrios, Brenda Nereyda Barrios Ovalle, María Alicia Silva Santos, Claudia Sacramento M., María Belén Narváez, María S. Guardado and Cándida Rosa García.



Chispa Maryland's 2016 Class of Environmental Justice and Action Promotores, Prince George's County, is a group of 14 Latino community members who were selected to participate in Chispa Maryland's highest volunteer program. The program required commitment, strength and an undeniable drive for advocacy, education and action. Chispa's Environmental Justice and Action Promotores elevated Latino leaders and gives training

for how to do grassroots organizing within our own communities to fight climate change, move pro-environment policies and practices, while building relationships of respect and dignity with members of the community —aspects that are essential to environmental protection and healthy, safe communities. Since their graduation, these 14 leaders have worked to bring environmental issues, education and activism to fellow Latinos

and people of color in schools, churches, community centers, and parks. Often you can find them around Prince George's County educating the public about improving water quality within our watershed through proper management of waste and recycling practices. Most recently, these women have been advocating for the campaign "CleanRide4kids" that seeks to improve the air quality of our region by providing schools with zero-emission buses.

## ¡Vamos al Bosque con ANS!



Todas las familias de habla hispana están invitadas a explorar el bosque de Woodend durante algunos sábados de otoño. Vamos a caminar por una hora observando la naturaleza y descubriendo que nos ha traído en esta estación. El bosque tiene muchas oportunidades para que nuestros niños desarrollen importantes destrezas. Programa gratis y en Español para familias de niños pequeños (3-6 años).  
**Para más información y fechas, visítenos en: [www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents)**

# AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

## Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS)

is the oldest independent environmental organization in the DC metro region. Since 1897, ANS has been advocating to protect local streams and watersheds and reaching the region's next generations of nature stewards with environmental education.

ANS members have a passion for nature, love of being outdoors and keen interest in learning about and protecting the natural world. With membership they enjoy discounts on nature programs (for children, families and adults), Nature Travel and in the Audubon Naturalist Shop at Woodend Nature Sanctuary (ANS Headquarters); invitations to exclusive members only, nature-inspired events throughout the year; and ANS publications, such as the Naturalist Quarterly and monthly Audubon eNews.

Become a member today. Join ANS online from [anshome.org](http://anshome.org).

## ANS Mission

To inspire residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand, and protect their natural environment through outdoor experiences, education, and advocacy.

## ANS Vision

To create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.



8940 Jones Mill Road  
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at registration today.

## Join us for our Raffle at the Networking Reception!

- Thank you to **Anacostia Riverkeeper** and **Anacostia Watershed Society** for offering two of our raffle prizes: **Anacostia River Explorers RiverSmart Educational Boat Tours!** Join either organization on a tour of the Anacostia River and learn about this amazing river's history, wildlife, the current environmental threats it faces, and the solutions being employed to help it realize its full potential. Each raffle prize winner can schedule a boat tour, in English or Spanish, for up to 20 guests.
- We will also raffle off **gift certificates to the Audubon Naturalist Shop!**

# NOTES

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# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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## Lake Sponsors



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## Stream Sponsors



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## River Sponsors



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## Rain Sponsors



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