

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

Spring 2019

ANSHOME.ORG



**Nature for All Highlights Naturally
Latinos Conference Speakers - Born
to Lead on the Environment**

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 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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Conservation, MD x22

Environmental Education x16

Membership x35

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Volunteers x20

Contributions x31

Special Events x12

Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

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

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Naturalist Quarterly

ANShome.org Spring 2019

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COVER Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea*. Taken January 2010, Barceloneta, Puerto Rico. The bird is standing on Sandstone that has been weathered by the salt water droplets making it very sharp and "wholy". This type of sandstone we call "diente de perro" (dog teeth) - Serenella Linares

From the Director

Ingredients for the Best Job in the World - Green Wellies and Mixed Teams

Recently, I sat in my office pulling on a pair of “green wellies,” those knee-high rubber boots so many ANS members know and love to wear. After I tucked my pants into my boots, I headed outside to join 60+ volunteers who had gathered to move two persistent does off the Woodend grounds. The marvelous team was made up of people of all ages – students from the University of Maryland’s Wildlife Biology course, young adults from the Chesapeake Conservation Corps, ANS Volunteer Master Naturalists who spoke native languages ranging from Spanish to Japanese, new and long-time ANS members, and restoration enthusiasts. That afternoon, I said to more than one person, “I have the best job in the world!” because our gathering made me so hopeful.

I was encouraged because we were down to only two does – an incredible drop from the herd of 33 deer that was dining on Woodend’s vegetation just a year ago. But more importantly, I saw in that team of enthusiastic deer drivers our collective dreams for the future starting to come true. Our mission calls for us to inspire “residents of the greater Washington, DC, region to appreciate, understand and protect their natural environment.” And today, more than 55% of our region’s residents are people of color! That’s why our organizational vision calls for us to “create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.” We hit such high marks for reaching diverse student audiences throughout the region’s schools, but we know that we have more work to do to build a diverse, equitable, accessible and inclusive ANS for adult audiences.

And as we begin this important and purposeful work, we’re launching the **Nature for All** project. Because of Nature for All, it’s going to be a big year for ANS, a very BIG YEAR.

We’ll be hosting our second Naturally Latinos Conference (see pg 4) and gathering experts and thought leaders at our Meadow Summit (see pg 34) and Conservation Cafés (see pg 9). We’ll be working to make our headquarters more accessible to people who use wheelchairs, walkers and canes. And we’re committed to providing interpretive information that works for people who do not speak English as a first language.

I’m especially excited about the Nature for All changes afoot here at Woodend Sanctuary. ANS started operations at Woodend in 1969 and that makes 2019 Woodend’s 50th anniversary year! As part of the celebration, we are launching **Nature for All** to lay the groundwork for the next 50 years...and beyond. Find out more about all the improvements we’ve already made to Woodend mansion (pg 33).



Nature for All is happening because of you and this movement makes four big promises for the future of Woodend Nature Sanctuary:

- **Restore our Meadow, Stream, Pond and Forest habitats** for wildlife diversity and interpret those habitats for a wide range of visitors.
- **Construct an Accessible Nature Trail** that traverses Woodend’s restored habitats.
- **Create a Nature Play Space** that serves our diverse school programs, teachers, and families to ensure all children enjoy the benefits of nature play and outdoor education.
- **Invest in Mansion Upgrades** that improve our classroom spaces and rental venues for visitors of all abilities.

In addition to renewing the life of Woodend, we will focus on reflecting the community we have a mission to serve. A more diverse ANS makes us a smarter organization. Research shows that mixed teams are more effective at problem solving, and ANS aims to solve nothing less than the most pressing environmental problems facing the DC metro region today.

Please check our website and your email inbox regularly for updates and announcements about new programs and special events. Watch for a special Nature for All edition of September’s Naturalist Quarterly, and take pride in knowing that you are part of a vibrant and successful community of people who care deeply about the natural world and work tirelessly to protect it.

And yes, that diverse, mixed team of deer drive volunteers successfully shooed out those two does! It was exciting and successful, just like the future of Audubon Naturalist Society!

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LETTERS

For people with disabilities, access to nature is essential

There is no better way to obtain a sense of well-being and peace than to be immersed in the beauty of nature. For people with disabilities, whether a child who uses a wheelchair to dip net in our stream with the rest of their classmates or an older adult who has hearing loss walking a forest trail with other residents of an assisted living facility or a veteran who is blind listening to bird songs with his wife and children, access to nature fulfills a human need and elevates it to joy.

Beth Ziebarth
ANS Board of Directors

New native plants make biodiversity real

As a volunteer who often leads hikes through Woodend with children and adults, it’s exciting to see new native plant species appearing on the property. Educating children about the importance of biodiversity, food chains, and native flora and fauna becomes much easier when you are able to point them out.”

Frank Sanford
Chevy Chase, MD

STAFF UPDATES

We welcome **Karen Maricheau**, who joined ANS in January to manage our Fundraising events. Karen has been involved in community organizing and partnership building for many years and brings a strong volunteer and event management background to ANS. We hope you will get to meet her at an ANS event soon.

Naturally Latinos Conference Speakers: Born to lead on the environment

by Sarah Fraidin

ANS hosts its second Naturally Latinos Conference Wednesday, March 27 at Woodend as part of our movement to make Nature for All real for all. This article features three of this year's speakers. They'll cover topics such as: Building resiliency in Latinx communities in light of a changing climate; Empowering communities through education and restoration; Nature in our neighborhoods and How non-profits are partnering with Latinos to strengthen our local environment. We hope you'll join us for the conference and look for ways to build relationships with these exciting thought leaders.

For Danielle Reyes, it started with gardening in her hometown of Briarcliff Manor, New York. For Abel Olivo, it started in an Ohio field, by his parents' side as they picked beans as migrant farm workers. For Ada Monzon, it started with her love of rain, wind, and thunder, explained to her by her aunt, a science teacher in Puerto Rico. That's how they fell in love with nature and ended up building careers in environmental fields. This month, these three Latinx environmental

professionals will talk about their love of nature as speakers at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Naturally Latinos Conference March 27, 8:30-5pm.

When Danielle Reyes was a young child, she didn't realize other people couldn't identify every plant, tree or flower. Her parents passed that knowledge on to her with weekly hikes, canoe trips, fishing expeditions, and lots of gardening. When she turned 40, about seven years ago, she wanted to feel passionate about her work and the impact she was making on the DC community. She found a way to pass her love of nature on to others as her parents had done for her by creating YogahikesDC to introduce people to the variety of trails in the area, especially in Rock Creek Park. Now, when she sees the trails much more crowded than five years ago, she feels a sense of pride knowing she played a role making it happen. Her speech at the Naturally Latinos Conference is another way

she wants to make an impact. She hopes other Latinx and people of color will take on leadership roles and increase their presence in environmental fields. "Twenty-five years working with non-profits, one thing I hear regularly is that people want more diversity," she said. "They want to identify more Latinx to become volunteers, board members."

Abel Olivo believes that reaching out to the local community to make Spanish speakers feel welcome in the area's green spaces is the first step. As the Director of Outreach and Partnership for Corazón Latino, he saw 50 people show up at its first event and 70 people at the second.



Abel Olivo

But by the fourth event, a day of activities on the Shenandoah River, Corazón Latino had to turn people away! Olivo believes that people who learn to enjoy nature become people who help care for the environment. "We hope they will go home, go back to their own green spaces and become advocates in the community, plant trees, and be mindful of their waste footprint," he said. "Interest leads to action, leads to stewardship, activism, education and maybe a career."

For Ada Monzón, interest in the weather as a young child led directly to a career as Chief Meteorologist for the government television station in Puerto Rico. As a young girl, she carried a thermometer and a reference book everywhere. As an adult, her lifelong interest in the weather may be responsible for saving hundreds of thousands of lives during Hurricane Maria. On September 6, 2017, Hurricane Irma wiped out electricity in 850,000 homes in Puerto Rico. Monzón recognized that in two weeks another potentially more



Danielle Reyes



Danielle M. Reyes leads a group of yoga hikers through eagle pose in Rock Creek Park.



Ada Monzón

devastating Category 5 hurricane was headed to the island, and that many people were underestimating the threat. “There was no precedent for two Category 5 hurricanes back-to-back in two weeks. People didn’t want to believe, and, for many, they had no way to see the news.”

Monzón has more than a million Facebook followers. She turned to social media, powered by cell service, to bridge the news gap. Monzón appeared live on social media every three hours for more than two weeks to educate the public. She remembers thinking, “You have prepared all your life for this moment.” In that critical period, she tallied 31 million Facebook live views. Monzón believes that is the most important contribution she has made. During her keynote address at the Naturally Latinos Conference, Monzón will also paint the picture of the devastation she witnessed and how she believes educating Latino children will be key to recovery for the island and the earth. “We cannot think this is only happening in Puerto Rico. We are all going to be affected. We need to use science as a tool to empower students to become problem solvers.”

For more information on these speakers please consult their websites:
www.yogahikesdc.com * www.ecoexploratorio.org * <https://www.corazonlatino.us>



Photo by Gina Ghertrner



A student on a Discovery Hunt, funded by the Stone and Holt Weeks Foundation, looks at Puffballs, which are fun fungi for children to explore. Discovery Hunter Leader Gina Ghertrner says, "When we hit them, they burst in brown clouds of spores, that show they are mature."

Photo by Julie Walkup



A student at the ANS Preschool tastes real joy hanging upside down from a strong branch in our woodland.

Photo by Gina Ghertner



A student on a Discovery Hunt, funded by the Stone and Holt Weeks Foundation, checks out a slug in a magnifying bug box.

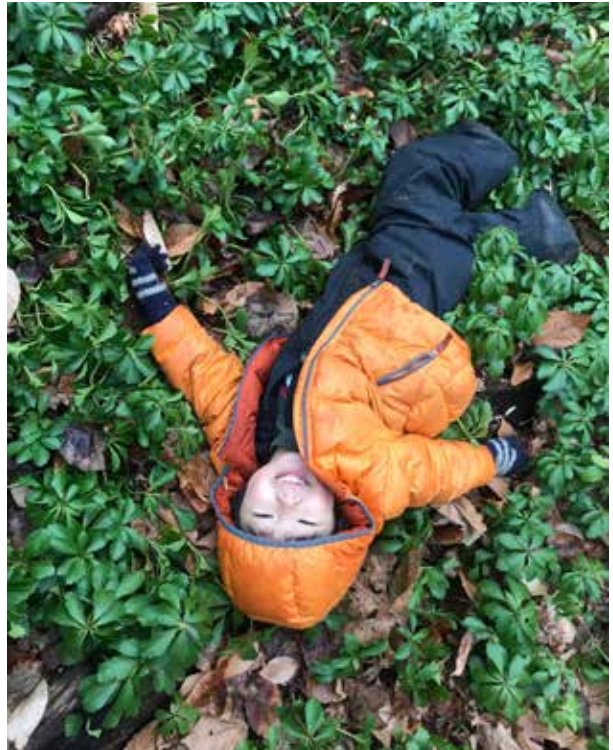


Photo by Shannon Earle

"Aah," this ANS Preschooler seems to be saying about the chance to lie down and make merry in a cushy pile of dry leaves on the Woodend sanctuary.



@ANSNature

Conservation



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County



Hellish Heat and High Water: ANS is growing to Respond to Climate Change

Policy and Advocacy News

By Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

Regional

News Flash: ANS Advocacy is Growing to Respond to Climate Change: ANS is about to hire three new Conservation Advocates, one each for DC, Maryland, and Virginia. This game-changing growth will allow ANS to broaden our focus to include not only protecting nature and our urban and suburban watersheds, but also responding to climate change. We will launch campaigns to reduce our region's emissions and prepare our human and natural communities to be ready and adaptive for a future of "heliish heat and high water," as the Post predicts. You'll learn more about our incredible new Advocates in the next NQ. **Find out more on our blog about what this means for ANS now and in the future.**



Virginia

VCN Lobby Day: In January, I joined the Virginia Conservation Network for Lobby Day in Richmond. I met with many Senators and Delegates from Northern Virginia, including Senator Scott Surovell (D36, in photo above). Along with advocates from Clean Water Action and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (in photo) and many others, ANS pushed Virginia legislators to support Governor Northam's record-breaking environmental budget. It included a \$50 million request for Stormwater Local Assistance Funding—a crucial tool for adding green infrastructure to urban and suburban areas.

Maryland

Action Alert: Forest Conservation Act Redux: We are losing forests at an alarming rate—a big problem in this age of increasing heat and bigger storms, sprawl development, and continued threats to the Chesapeake Bay. You tried hard to protect Maryland's forests with a bill to improve the Forest Conservation Act in last year's legislative session. Unfortunately, our bill died at the last moment last year. But this year we're back at it! ANS is joining coalition partners in testifying, making phone calls, and lobbying to protect our forests. We need your help again! **Please go to our blog to contact your legislators and ask them to support this year's three-bill package of improvements.**



Oak Tree at Woodend Nature Sanctuary. Tell your Maryland legislators: #MoreTreesPlease!

Washington, DC

Stream Health Report Has Eels, Makes Waves: Have you checked out our new report yet? Maybe you saw it in the news! It was covered in the Washington Post, WAMU & WTOP radio, and on TV on ABC7. We found some good news – eels and stable health in two of the streams – but some bad news too, with declining diversity across our stream sites. Thank you to the incredible monitors at our three DC sites who gathered the data to make this report possible. The report and its publicity have brought our work to renewed attention at the District Department of Energy and Environment and the National Park Service, giving us better opportunities to advocate for stream health and nature protection in DC. Read the whole report at anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring.

Conservation



Congratulations Cathy!



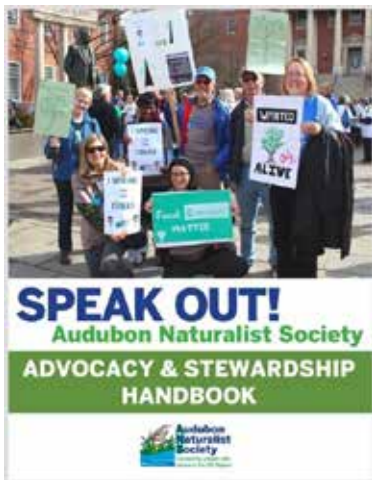
Our Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator Cathy Wiss was honored with the Carl Weber Award for lifetime achievement in the field of volunteer monitoring by the Maryland Water Monitoring Council. Here she is holding her celebratory frog award which is hers to keep safe for 2019!

Advocacy & Stewardship Workshops

Learn more and register at: www.anshome.org/training

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Prices below are for members/nonmembers



You'll get our Advocacy & Stewardship Handbook!

Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101 Wednesday, April 24 (10 am-2:30 pm) \$20/\$30

Join ANS experts for a fun and empowering workshop for an introduction to environmental advocacy & watershed stewardship! Includes a tour of Woodend's watershed restoration projects and uses role play and scenarios to build confidence in speaking up for nature. The focus is on clean water but the skills can apply to any environmental issue--learn how you can raise your voice for local conservation.

Advocacy 201: Talking with decision-makers, writing comment letters and testimony Wednesday, May 15 (6:30-8:30 pm) \$15/\$20

If you've attended our 101 workshop (or if you haven't!), come learn how to go deeper on some key advocacy skills. We'll learn via role-play and skill-building sessions. Led by Eliza Cava and Bruce Gilmore.

Conservation Cafés

Join us for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Your \$15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! All programs below will take place at Woodend Sanctuary from 7-8:30 pm. **See detailed descriptions and register at www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe.**

Upcoming Events:

- **March 19:** Julie Lawson, Director of the Mayor's Office of the Clean City in Washington, DC, and founder of Trash-Free Maryland: Talking Trash & Recycling."
- **April 25:** Premiere of the ANS and Heritage Montgomery documentary "The Land of Woodend," which explores 300 years of history, beauty, and transformation.
- **May 9:** Emily Ranson, Clean Water Action: Using the law to protect our environment: a recap of the 2019 Maryland General Assembly session with Emily Ranson of Clean Water Action.
- **June 6:** Magic of the Ocean: Join Magician and Biologist Jason Goldberg for a unique celebration of National Ocean Month. This special Conservation Cafe is kid-friendly for ages 10 & up, kids \$5 each. Bring the whole family!



We Survived the Plunge!

The air temperature was a balmy 36°F, and the water temperature was around 38°F, and yet 7 hardy ANSers ran into the Potomac River at National Harbor! Thank you to our amazing donors who helped Team ANS raise \$5,360 in the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Polar Bear Plunge, making us the second-place team (we're coming for you next year, Blue Water Baltimore...). Your donations go to CCAN to help them #KeepWinterCold, and also to ANS Conservation to help us fund new programming elements around climate change mitigation and adaption. Stay tuned, and Thank You!

Interested in getting involved or learning more?
Sign up for our Action Alert list and check out our Blog at
conservationblog.anshome.org.



facebook.com/audubonnaturalistsociety



Photo by Ben Israel

Students in Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason's Winter Tree ID class learn to identify trees, such as this Eastern Redbud, on Woodend's nature sanctuary by their bark, branching and buds. Below, students inspect the fruit of a Sweet Gum tree.



Photo by Ben Israel



Photo by Serenilla Linares

A teacher participating in our Environmental Education Project Learning Tree Workshop looks for decomposers at Woodend.



Photo by Bradley Simpson

Students take a closer look at macroinvertebrates in the Aquatic Insect Family ID series of classes taught at Woodend.

Early Childhood 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, Family Programs, and at your child's school through School Programs and GreenKids. Consider having your PTA or PTO sponsor a nature activity for your school!

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. Visit anshome.org/ans-preschool for more info or call Preschool Director Stephanie Bozzo at 301-652-9188 x32.

Preschool Community Event

Wonder and Wander

Saturday, May 4 (9:30-11 am)

Join us for a special preschool community event featuring three story hikes and a tour of the Audubon Nature Preschool with ANP staff and teachers. There will be a bake sale with all of your favorite morning treats, including coffee and hot cider. There will also be a gently used children's book sale. This is a ticketed event and every child will leave with a free gently-used book! \$10 per family. Register at anshome.org/ans-preschool.

Fresh Air Kids at Rust Sanctuary!

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)

April 5-May 31 (no class 4/19)

Cost: \$125 (siblings 21 months and older \$115, siblings under 21 months free)

Register at anshome.org/parents

Reservations not confirmed until payment received. Please mail checks made payable to ANS and send to ANS, Attn: Pam Oves, 8940 Jones Mill Rd, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Tales and Trails

Ages 2-4 with a caregiver

Tuesdays, April 2-June 4

(10-10:45 am)

Spring Session: \$80 per child

This 10-week class invites young children to discover the wonders of nature as we journey through the changing seasons.

We'll tap into children's deep connection with nature by reading stories, making fun crafts, and singing songs. Make sure

to dress for the weather as we will explore our Sanctuary trails each class to see what new surprises we can find.

Feel free to relax and enjoy our trails, picnic areas, and bookstore before or after the program. Register online at www.anshome.org/parents. Questions? Contact Gina at gina.ghertner@anshome.org.



Capon Bridge, WV | 57th Season

Hike. Swim. Explore the Appalachian wilderness.

Small groups. Independent projects.

Music. Art. Games. And lots of laughter!



SENIOR PROGRAM
(Ages 11-15)

Two week sessions |
June, July, August

JUNIOR PROGRAM
(Ages 8-10)

One week session |
August

ADULT WEEKEND (Ages 21+)

Friday, July 26-Sunday, July 28

Roam the ridges, taste wild edibles, learn bird songs, leaf print your t-shirt, and sketch by the stream. Knowledgeable staff, delicious food and beautiful surroundings!

For more information: burgundycenter.org
703.842.0470 | michelem@burgundyfarm.org

Camp Audubon

Summer Camp Open House

Saturday, June 8 (10 am-12 pm)

Please RSVP to nora.kelly@anshome.org

New to Camp Audubon or just feeling anxious about the summer? Then come to our free open house and learn about what makes Camp Audubon so special! The open house is geared to new Pre-K/K families but all are welcome.

- 10-10:15 am: Meet June Bug, the Camp Director
- 10:15-10:45 am: Check-in process and tour of mansion
- 10:45-11:30 am: Pick-up process and tour of grounds
- 11:30 am-12 pm: Questions/Concerns



Photo by Ben Israel

Summer Camp Spots Still Available!

Summer is almost here!! If you are looking for camps to send your child to, then we can help. We still have space in many camps, except for 1st/2nd grade.

Register online for all camps at www.anshome.org/summer-camps. Camps that still have space are listed under the "Important Updates" section of the camp page. Questions about registration? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

Confirmation packets will be emailed three weeks before your child's camp begins.

Children's Garden Open House

Saturday, June 8 (10 am-12 pm)

FREE! No RSVP necessary.

Come see where campers and pre-schoolers learn about gardening, harvesting food, and making recipes to enjoy and share. See a pizza garden, a pickle garden, and a 3 sisters garden. We'll even have a bug zoo!

Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions and give tours of the garden. Donations welcome. The Children's Garden is located near the side parking lot of the mansion. Questions? Email jenny.brown@anshome.org.



twitter.com/ANStweets

Spring Break Camp (Grades K-9)

Register online at www.anshome.org/parents

Experience the wonders of Spring at Camp Audubon! Catch frogs in the pond, hike to Rock Creek, and get your hands dirty in our Children's Garden! Grades 6-9 can earn up to 20 SSL hours doing sanctuary stewardship activities.

MCPS: Wednesday, April 17-

Friday, April 19, 2019

(8:45 am-3 pm)

Extended camp available from 3-5 pm (\$45)

Members \$255; nonmembers \$310

DCPS: Monday, April 15-Friday,

April 19, 2019

(8:45 am-3 pm)

Extended camp available from 3-5 pm (\$75)

Members \$365; nonmembers \$450



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.

School Programs in DC, MD & VA

14



Photo by Serenella Linares



Professional Development for Teachers

Would you like to enrich your curriculum with hands on activities for your students? Let us share our education with you! Each workshop will provide you with the tools necessary to implement the lessons in your own classroom or school yard. Workshops are held year-round.

Visit www.anshome.org/teachers for a schedule and to register online.

Donations are always appreciated to support our on-going programs for underserved schools and community centers in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

Party With a Purpose



When you celebrate with a birthday party at Woodend Sanctuary, you support us in providing nature education to children all over the DC Metro area. ANS offers nature-themed birthday parties for ages 4-10 at our Chevy Chase Nature Sanctuary. Register online at anshome.org/parents.

- Choose from our party themes: Animal Clues, All About Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Wiggly Worms, Insect Investigations, Winter Detective, and Stayin' Alive When Winter Winds Blow.
- Parties are 1.5 hours and are held year-round on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Parties are \$230 for ANS members and \$265 for nonmembers (which includes a family membership).



Featured Grant Program

Testing the Waters is a program we run in partnership with Kennedy, Northwood, and Einstein High Schools. With generous funding this year from Chesapeake Bay Trust and individual donors, we are teaching students all about water quality monitoring as well as careers in science and environmental education. Students are leading watershed field trips with local elementary schools, planting rain gardens, and performing watershed modeling of their schoolyards. Your support of ANS helps to make this type of outreach possible. Thank you!

Photo by Diane Lill

Adult Nature 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.

Wild places are closer than you think. ®

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adults.
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- Want to become an ANS member and get the member rate? Join at the same time you register for a program.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

Woodcock Watch

Saturday, March 9 (5:15-7:15 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

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

Late Winter Birding Trek in Northern Virginia

Sunday, March 10 (8 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

With winter winding down, we'll bundle up for one last foray to wetlands and woodlands near Alexandria, VA in search of lingering winter waterfowl, resident birds, and some of the first returning migrants. We'll check out Roach's Run near National Airport, before heading down and along the Potomac River for an exploration of Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Our final destination is nearby Huntley Meadows Park, where a large, protected tract of forest and marsh sits amidst residential and commercial neighborhoods.

Rockin' on the Mall

Sunday, March 10 (1-4 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

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

Winter Walks Along the Canal

Session E: Wednesday, March 13 (10 am-12:30 pm) - Pennyfield Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Warbler Warm-up

Thursday, March 14 (7-9:30 pm)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members: \$24; nonmembers \$34

We think it's never too early to start brushing up on the voices and field marks of the soon-to-be arriving warblers. Even for the most seasoned birders, finding and properly IDing them as they arrive or pass through between late March-May can be a real challenge. Since we all need an annual refresher, we've enlisted the help of a veteran ANS field trip leader to use slides and recorded songs to help prepare us for this rich, long-awaited period of birding.

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.

Walking the Winter Woods and Wetlands - Huntley Meadows

Sunday, March 17 (10 am-1 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Winter is often considered the *quiet* season, but there is still lots to look and listen for in the natural world despite the cold temperatures. Our Senior Naturalist will lead this walk to observe winter wildlife and plants, all the while discussing their strategies for winter survival.

Beginning Birding

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

Saturday, March 23 (8 am-1 pm)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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 Park and the closed Oaks Landfill in upper Montgomery County, is to develop the ability to find, study, and identify birds in their natural environment.

Early Spring in Cape May

Friday, March 22 (6 pm) to Sunday, March 24 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$120; nonmembers \$168

Savor the first blush of spring along the Atlantic coast at Cape May, New Jersey. We'll begin our weekend activities on Friday evening with a search for Short-eared Owls and other marsh birds at a site about 45 minutes north of Cape May. On Saturday we'll reconvene to visit forest, field, and wetlands in Cape May to search for songbirds, waterfowl, and, if it's a mild March, frogs, turtles, and butterflies. We will also visit coastal areas where we can scan for scoters, loons, gannets, and other birds on and along the waters of the Atlantic and Delaware Bay. Saturday evening we will watch for displaying woodcocks and listen for owls and frogs. Sunday will give us another chance for exploring this rich area. We'll send you information on overnight options in Cape May, including motels and B&Bs.

Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: March 27 - Carderock;

Section B: April 10 - Widewater;

Section C: April 24 - Swain's Lock;

Section D: May 8 - Riley's Lock;

Section E: May 22 - Violettes Lock

**WAITLIST
OPEN**



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Window into the World of Fungi

Thursday, March 28 (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.

Early Spring Wildflower Hike

Saturday, March 30 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Beat the winter blues by joining this search for the earliest signs of spring wildflowers in the woods and bottomlands along the Potomac River near Carderock Recreation Area, just outside the Beltway. We'll look for the greening leaves, swelling buds, and (fingers crossed) unfolding flowers of species such as Harbinger of Spring, Early Saxifrage, Spring Beauty, and Bloodroot. Our field Studies Spring flower ID instructor leads this hike over some *uneven, rocky and likely muddy natural surface trails on a roughly 2-mile walk.*

Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch at Glover Archbold Park

Saturday, March 30 (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 stream valley park and discuss long-term stormwater impacts and needed infrastructure rehabilitation, including an old DC Water sewer line. We will walk the watershed from north to south, looking at past problems and imagining the changes needed to restore water quality - a primary objective of the Clean Water Act. Reps of the National Park Service, DC Department of the Environment, and DC Water have been invited to join us. Participants can return to Tenley on a Wisconsin Avenue Metrobus and/or make plans for lunch in Georgetown.



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

Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

A. Sunday, March 31 - Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Paul Pisano)

B. Sunday, April 14 - Huntley Meadows, VA (Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton)

C. Saturday, April 27 - Dyke Marsh, VA (Mike Bowen)

D. Saturday, May 4 - Patuxent Research Refuge, MD (Mike Bowen) FULL

E. Sunday, May 12 - Glover Archbold, DC (Jim Nelson)

F. Saturday, May 18 - Little Bennett, MD (Mark England)

G. Sunday, May 26 - Pennyfield Lock, MD (Lisa Davenport and Len Bisson)

Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Entire series \$155; nonmembers \$215

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 pulse of bird activity can sometimes be overwhelming. On each walk, we'll search for both resident and migrant birds by song and sound. We'll discuss the arrival sequence the spring travelers, practice spotting them in the field, and attempt to learn the songs of many species. Our trips include on natural surface trails and/or boardwalks, which may be muddy, slippery and uneven.

Looking at Lichens

Sunday, March 31 (2-4 pm)

Leader: Laura Mol

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Amid the winter palette of grays and browns, lichens can be surprisingly colorful—especially if they've had some moisture to brighten up. We'll ramble along natural-surface trails in the woodlands of Wheaton Regional Park, looking for lichens and observing their colors, textures, shapes, and reproduction strategies, as well as lichens' role in the living world. Most of all, we'll admire the beauty and intricacy of lichens, as we practice seeing and describing them. Aimed at lichen novices but all welcome.

JUST
ADDED

The Magic of Early Spring Woods

Monday, April 1 (10 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

No fooling: even if it's a chilly day our leader is sure to find signs of spring in the woodlands of the Goldmine Tract at Great Falls Park, MD. With the colors and forms of unfolding leaves and blooms overhead and early spring wildflowers underfoot, the morning is sure to warm the spirits, regardless of the weather. Our leader describes this exploration, most likely on the Tract's Valley Trail, as relatively easy, but it may be muddy, slippery, and/or uneven under foot.

Introduction to Wildflower ID

Thursday, April 4 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, April 6 (9:30 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$48; nonmembers \$68

Lecture only members \$25; nonmembers \$35

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

Spring in the Parks

(8:30 am-1 pm)

A. Sunday, April 7 - Watkins Regional Park, MD

B. Sunday, April 28 - Rock Creek Park, DC

C. Saturday, May 11 - Mason Neck NWR, VA

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; Nonmembers \$38

Entire series \$84/\$114

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 in a search for spring wildflowers and seasonal wildlife activity, including birds, butterflies, and amphibians. Our first destination visits rich woodland and wetland habitats near Largo, MD. On our next expedition, we'll explore the surprisingly wild urban forest and streamside trails of Rock Creek Park in the District. As the pulse of spring change slows down and the woods stand green, we'll walk the bottomlands adjacent to Belmont Bay near Occoquan, VA. All of our trips include some uphill/downhill (steepest on walks A and B) on natural surface trails, which are likely to be muddy and possibly slippery this time of year.

Geology Hike at Soldiers Delight

Sunday, April 7 (1-4 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

The Soldiers Delight Natural Environment Area, near Owings Mill, MD, preserves one of the largest patches of igneous bedrock that was lifted from beneath the sea floor and stranded in patches amidst the continental rock of the Piedmont. Soils here are thin, dry, and nutrient-poor, producing a landscape observably different from most of the mid-Atlantic. We'll hike around 3 miles on park trails (parts will be steep and possibly muddy), studying the bedrock, soil, and plant communities. *Note: Our geology hikes move farther and at a faster pace than our usual naturalists' shuffle.*

Budbreak and Spring Wildflower Walk on TR Island

Wednesday April 10 (10 am-2pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Join the author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park*, *City of Trees* and a forthcoming book about *Theodore Roosevelt Island* for an early spring exploration of this 88-acre island in the Potomac. The island park serves as a fitting memorial to our 26th President, who was a naturalist, an early conservationist - and a member of the Audubon Naturalist Society! We'll witness the miracle of budbreak amongst the island's remarkable trees and enjoy the floodplain forest's lovely Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, trout lilies, and other spring ephemerals. Our walk will take us around the island on woodland trails and through the swamp and tidal inlet on an elevated boardwalk trail. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy under the towering sycamores as we look for great blue herons, wood ducks, belted kingfishers and returning osprey.

Bluebells and Budbreak at Boundary Bridge

Saturday April 13 (9:30 am-2 pm)

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

We're delighted that the author of the award-winning book, *A Year in Rock Creek Park* and the critically acclaimed, *City of Trees*, will offer her 13th year of nature walks for ANS in the country's oldest urban national park. On our walk, we will witness the annual floral miracle of Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, and trout lilies in the floodplain forest, as we admire the leaves of tulip tree and American beech begin to spill from their buds. We'll hope to catch bloodroot, wild ginger, cut-leafed toothwort and other spring ephemerals in bloom as we explore both floodplain and upland woods at a leisurely pace. Our lunch stop, high above the creek on a dramatic rock outcrop offering, will offer spectacular views. Here, we'll do a bit of "forest bathing," time permitting. Throughout, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for belted kingfishers, wood ducks, migrating songbirds, and tiny spring peepers.

Walk Among the Giants

B. Saturday, April 13 (8 am-Noon)

C. Sunday, July 21 (8 am-Noon)

D. Sunday, October 27 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$28; nonmembers \$38

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.

Hawks Aloft at Fort Smallwood Park

Saturday, April 13 (9 am-3 pm)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

Fort Smallwood, situated at the mouth of the Patapsco River where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay, provides one of the region's premier hawkwatching sites for spring raptor migration. If weather conditions are favorable, we can hope to see good numbers of hawks passing over the park at this season. Though the focus of the day will be watching hawks, there may also be time to look for the earliest songbird migrants, butterflies, and even wildflowers, depending on the day's weather, the number of hawks aloft, and the interest of the group.

Native Plant Gardening

Spring Walk: Wednesday, April 17 (10 am-Noon)

Summer Walk: Thursday, July 18 (10 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Explore the Blair Native Plant Garden, located just outside the Naturalist 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.

Smitten by Frogs

Thursday, April 18 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Saturday, April 20 (7-9 pm field trip)

Leader: Richard Schubert

Members \$42; nonmembers \$58

Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Unlike the ideal Victorian child, frogs are mostly heard and not seen. We have 20 species of these anurans in Maryland, including the recently-discovered Kauffeld's (Atlantic Coast) Leopard Frog, the first new frog discovered on the east coast in over 130 years! We will discuss visual and auditory identification of local frogs, and review their varying habits, adaptations, and preferred habitat/location, with special emphasis on Montgomery County. To complement the evening lecture at Woodend Sanctuary, there will be an early evening field trip to McKee-Beshers Wildlife management Area near Poolesville. Our leader, an ANS member who is smitten by frogs, aims for hearing or seeing at least five species.

**FIELD TRIP
FULL**



Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Mar 2	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Apr 16	7 pm	Biology for Naturalists begins	Y	30
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13	Apr 17	8:45 am	MCPS Spring Break Camp begins	Y	13
Mar 9	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	10 am	Native Plant Gardening	Y	19
"	"	Patuxent River Park Free Birding Trip		29	"	7 pm	Introduction to Ornithology begins	Y	30
"	4 pm	Campfire & Craft	Y	web	Apr 18	6 pm	Reptiles & Amphibians begins	Y	31
"	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	Y	16	"	7:30 pm	Smitten by Frogs	Y	19
Mar 10	8 am	Late Winter Birding Trek in Northern Virginia	Y	16	Apr 19	10 am	Rising CO2 and Global Warming begins	Y	31
"	1 pm	Rockin' on the Mall	Y	16	"	6:45 pm	Evening on the Canal	Y	22
"	1:30 pm	Bartsch Award Ceremony	Y	36	Apr 20	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Mar 12	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow Free Birding Trip		29	"	9 am	River Herring Return to Rock Creek		22
Mar 13	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal E	Y	16	Apr 24	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay Free Birding Trip		29
"	"	Meadow Workshop	Y	34	"	10 am	Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship 101	Y	9
Mar 14	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow Free Birding Trip		29	"	"	Spring Saunter Along the Canal C	Y	17
:	7 pm	Warbler Warm-up	Y	16	Apr 25	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9
Mar 16	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Apr 26	10 am	Introduction to eBird		22
Mar 17	10 am	Walking the Winter Woods and Wetlands	Y	17	Apr 27	7 am	Spring Early Birds C	Y	18
Mar 19	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Mar 21	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	17	"	10 am	Spring Butterflies of Hoyle's Mill	Y	22
Mar 22	6 pm	Early Spring in Cape May	Y	17	Apr 28	7 am	Blue Mash Nature Trail Free Birding Trip		29
Mar 23	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend (bilingual)		31	"	8:30 am	Spring in the Parks B	Y	18
Mar 27	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay Free Birding Trip		29	May 3	8:30 am	Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac	Y	22
"	8:30 am	Naturally Latinos	Y	4	May 4	7 am	Spring Early Birds D	Y	18
"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal A	Y	17	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Mar 28	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology B	Y	28	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods	13	
"	"	Window into the World of Fungi		17	"	"	Abloom in the Blue Ridge	Y	22
Mar 30	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	"	Geology at Greenbriar State Park, MD	Y	22
"	9 am	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges		17	"	9:30 am	Preschool Community Event	Y	12

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Mar 30	9:30 am	Field Workshop at Ten Mile Creek	Y	28	May 5	7 am	Spring Warbler Walk	Y	23
"	10 am	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	Y	17	"	9 am	Glorious Spring in Rachel Carson Park	Y	23
Mar 31	7 am	Spring Early Birds A	Y	18	May 8	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal D	Y	17
"	2 pm	Looking at Lichens	Y	18	May 9	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9
Apr 1	10 am	The Magic of Early Spring Woods	Y	18	May 10	10 am	Spring Nature Drawing Workshop	Y	23
Apr 2	10 am	Tales and Trails begins	Y	12	May 11	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
"	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream	Y	28	"	8:30 am	Spring in the Parks C	Y	18
Apr 4	7:30 pm	Intro to Wildflower ID	Y	18	"	4:30 pm	Spring in Your Step		23
Apr 5	10 am	Forest Restoration Workshop	Y	34	May 12	7 am	C&O Canal Areas Free Birding Trip		29
"	"	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	12	"	"	Spring Early Birds E	Y	18
Apr 6	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	full day	Spring Hike on the Appalachian Trail	Y	23
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13	May 15	10 am	Forest Bathing Through the Seasons at Woodend	Y	23
Apr 7	8:30 am	Spring in the Parks A	Y	18	"	6:30 pm	Advocacy 201	Y	9
"	1 pm	Geology Hike at Soldiers Delight	Y	18	May 16	7:30 pm	Spring Shorebird Migration on the Delaware Bay	Y	24
Apr 8	6:30 pm	Birdathon Training and Kick-off Event		35	May 18	7 am	Spring Early Birds F	Y	18
Apr 10	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal B	Y	17	"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
"	"	Budbreak and Spring Wildflower Walk on TRI	Y	19	"	9:30 am	Know Your Invasive Plants	Y	28
"	"	Bacteria Testing Training for DC		28	May 19	8 am	On the Wing in Late Spring	Y	24
Apr 13	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	9 am	Geology of Leesylvania State Park	Y	24
"	"	Smallwood State Park Free Birding Trip		29	May 21	7 pm	Butterflies of Late Spring begins	Y	30
"	"	Walk Among the Giants	Y	19	"	7:30 pm	Intro to Bird ID by Voice	Y	24
"	9 am	Hawks Aloft at Fort Smallwood Park	Y	19					
"	9:30 am	Bluebells and Budbreak at Boundary Bridge	Y	19					
Apr 14	7 am	Spring Early Birds B	Y	18					
Apr 15	8:45 am	DCPS Spring Break Camp begins	Y	13					
"	6:30 pm	The Living Soil begins	Y	30					
Apr 16	8 am	Pennyfield in the Spring Free Birding Trip		29					

- Special Event
- Children and Family Program
- Adult Program
- Natural History Field Studies
- Rust (VA) Activities and Events
- Y = Fee-based program**



Barred Owl

Evening on the Canal

Friday, April 19 (6:45-8:45 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

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

River Herring Return to Rock Creek

Saturday, April 20 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman

Free, but registration required.

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Introduction to eBird

Friday, April 26 (10-11:30 am)

Leader: Pam Oves

Free, but registration required.

New to eBird? Whether you want to use eBird as a way to keep track of your life list or check out hotspots to see what's been spotted recently, we'll introduce you to eBird and all it has to offer. At this free workshop at Woodend, our leader will also briefly touch on other resources such as mdbirding.com and ANS's own Voice of the Naturalist. If time permits, we'll take a stroll around Woodend and enter our own observations into eBird.

FREE

Spring Butterflies of Hoyle's Mill Conservation Park

Saturday, April 27 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

**WAITLIST
OPEN**

Spring on Wheels Along the Potomac

Friday, May 3 (8:30 am-3 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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.

Abloom in the Blue Ridge

Saturday, May 4 (9 am-3 pm)

Leader: Sujata Roy

Members \$32; nonmembers \$44

The G. Richard Thompson Wildlife Management Area in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Linden, VA is a 4000-acre area that is well known for its botanical diversity. The floral display is especially rich in early May when the hillsides are covered with many wildflowers including masses of large-flowered trillium, plus yellow-lady's-slipper, showy orchis, wild geranium, three-lobed violet, and rue-anemone. Spring migrants such as Scarlet Tanager and American Redstart, as well early season butterflies, also abound in these mature woodlands. Our field day will focus on the sites rich plant community, but we won't turn a blind eye to other spring sightings on our leisurely exploration of 2-3 miles. Expect some uphill/downhill walking on rocky and uneven trails.

Geology at Greenbrier State Park, MD

Saturday, May 4 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Greenbrier State Park is located on the western slope of South Mountain about fifteen miles northwest of Frederick, Maryland. Its trails provide good exposures of three formations of the Blue Ridge Province: Antietam, Harpers and Weverton. The exposures have two unusual features. First, the Antietam is the source of the tube-shaped Skolithos fossils commonly seen in DC-area stream gravels. Second, because the Blue Ridge rocks are overturned within the park, walking uphill means walking backward in geologic time. Unfortunately, there will be a price to pay to see these Cambrian and Precambrian wonders. Our two-mile hike will be quite rocky and involve about 500 feet of elevation gain. Although we will proceed at a slower geologist pace than usual, it will still be a moderate to strenuous hike. Note that for day use, the park charges \$3 per person for Maryland residents and \$5 per person for non-residents.

Spring Warbler Walk

Sunday, May 5 (7-11 am)

Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36



American Redstart

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 leaders, both long-time birders in the area, will aim this teaching trip at beginning to mid-level birders. The

walk will begin at Pennyfield Lock and then move upriver to Riley's Lock along the Potomac C&O Canal.

Glorious Spring in Rachel Carson Park

Sunday, May 5 (9 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$26; Nonmembers \$36

Experience spring unfolding in the plant communities of this Park's high-quality forests, mountain laurel thickets, rocky outcroppings, and Haulings River bottomlands. Under the guidance of a field botanist who knows this area well, we'll admire and ID unfolding leaves, seasonal wildflowers, and many native ferns. Expect a walk of 2.3 miles, with some uphill/downhill over terrain that may be uneven, rocky, and/or muddy.

Spring Nature Drawing Workshop

Friday, May 10 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

There is a long tradition of naturalists keeping field notes. Often their written notes are accompanied by drawings. In this workshop, you will be guided through the steps to create a spring sketch, using pens or pencils in your sketchbook or field journal. Starting out, Tina will lead you on a brief walk at our Woodend Sanctuary, pausing to observe and record notes in your sketchbook. When you return to the tables and chairs in our tented classroom, she will share her sketchbooks, demonstrate art supplies, and explain techniques to create a quick sketch. Here's a chance to slow down and look closely at spring leaves, buds and flowers as you capture a spring day in your sketch and field notes. A list of art supplies will be provided with your registration and confirmation.

Spring in Your Step

Saturday, May 11 (4:30-6:30 pm)

Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves

Free, but registration required.

FREE

The early bird may get the worm, but late afternoon can be a rewarding time to birdwatch as well. Join us on a 2-3 mile stroll on the paved Black Hill Hiker/Biker Trail in Black Hill Regional Park, with views of Lake Seneca. We'll look and listen for birds such as Belted Kingfisher and Bald Eagle as well as migrants such as Baltimore and Orchard Orioles. Limited to 12 participants. This walk is aimed at beginning birders.

Spring Hike on the Appalachian Trail

Sunday, May 12 (full day hike)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$36; nonmembers \$50

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.

Wonders at Woodend: Forest Bathing through the Seasons

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section B: May 15 FULL

Section C: July 10

Section D: October 16

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Savor the natural joys of seasonal forest bathing walks led by Melanie Choukas-Bradley, a longtime ANS field trip leader and the author of *The Joy of Forest Bathing—Reconnect with Wild Places & Rejuvenate Your Life*. Discover the magic of *shinrin-yoku*, translated as "forest bathing," a nature-oriented mindfulness practice that originated in Japan and has become popular all over the world. Our leader is a Nature & Forest Therapy Guide with certification from the Association of Nature & Forest Therapy Guides and Programs of Sonoma County, California. Experience the restoration of Woodend as we explore and commune with the living things in our meadows, forest, and Blair Garden. A serving of maple sap "tea" and a sharing of nature poetry will conclude each walk.



youtube.com/audubonnaturalist

Spring Shorebird Migration on the Delaware Bay

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

Saturday, May 18 (full-day field trip)

Leaders: John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper

Members \$48; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34



Greater Yellowlegs

Each year in May, horseshoe crabs migrate to the beaches of Delaware Bay to mate and lay their eggs. During the same time period, hundreds of

thousands of shorebirds, en route to summer breeding grounds, stop at the Bay to feast and refuel on the concentrated number of horseshoe crab eggs. At Thursday's lecture, John Bjerke will discuss shorebird migration and use slides to help ID some of the most common shorebirds in our region. Saturday's field trip, led by Cyndie Loeper and a second leader (TBA), will take us to the Bay, where we will hope to see and ID a variety of shorebirds.

On the Wing in Late Spring

Sunday, May 19 (8 am-Noon)

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Cathy Stragar

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

As the pace of spring's dramatic changes in the natural world starts to slow down, we'll take a couple of slow strolls ourselves along the C&O Canal Towpath from Riley's Lock both upriver and downriver. We'll keep eyes open and ears attuned to things on the wing: birds, butterflies, bees, and dragonflies. Of course, we'll pay attention to the plant company these winged things keep, as well.

Geology of Leesylvania State Park

Sunday, May 19 (9 am-1 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Leesylvania State Park sits next to the tidal Potomac about five miles south of Woodbridge, Virginia. Its sandy beach, sandstone cliffs and upland gravel terraces illuminate the geological history of the Coastal Plain and of the Chesapeake Bay estuary. We will hike a loop of about three miles within the park over well-maintained woodland trails. The terrain is flat to gently rolling with a couple of short steep sections. If there has been recent rain, the trail may be muddy at spots. The pace set and distance covered is usually faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."

Introduction to Bird ID by Voice

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

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

Saturday, May 25 (7 am-Noon)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$50; nonmembers \$70

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

Spring Hike on Sugarloaf

Friday, May 24 (10 am-3 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley and Tina Thieme Brown

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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 mile hike is timed to coincide with High Spring's greening of the Sugarloaf Mountain woodlands and the blooming of many plants, including mountain laurel and fringe-tree. Bring binoculars to look for Wood Thrushes, Warblers, Ravens, and other bird species. After 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.

Botany in a Parking Lot

Wednesday, May 29 (10 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Marney Bruce

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

No joke! Our leader invites you to join her for an easy walk around one of her favorite botanical hot-spots along the C&O Canal Towpath at the Carderock Recreation Area. Expect an easy walk around the parking lot as she shows you how to ID the diverse group of trees around the lot, using bark, buds, leaves, and developing fruits.

NEW REGISTRATION SYSTEM COMING!

We are switching to a new registration system for adult programs in the fall, which is compatible with all smartphones, computers, tablets, etc. Look for more information in your email soon.

If you have any credits on your account, please use them by the end of August.

Questions? Contact Pam Oves at 301-652-9188 x16.

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

B is for Butterfly

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Summer Shuffles Along the Canal

Wednesdays (9-11:30 am)

A: June 19 - Pennyfield Lock

B: July 3 - Riley's Lock

C: July 17 - Carderock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Solstice Walk at Little Bennett

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

Leader: Carole Bergmann

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Western Montgomery County Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 22



Solstice Butterfly Hike

Sunday, June 23 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Tom Stock

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Six-legged Songsters of Summer

Thursday, June 27 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Free, but registration required.



The Buzz on Bees and Wasps

Saturday, June 29 (9-11:30 am)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Soggy Bogs, Tiny Trees and Walks on the Wild Side

Saturday, June 29 (9 am) to Sunday, June 30 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$120; nonmembers \$168

Holiday on Wheels Along the Patuxent

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Paddle on the Potomac

Tuesday, July 16 (10 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Melanie Choukas-Bradley & Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Summer Meadow

Saturday, July 20 (8:30 am-12:30 pm)

Leader:s Stephanie Mason & Cathy Stragar

Members 28; nonmembers \$38

Sunset Stroll in the Hollow

Saturday, July 20 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Fern Basics

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

Leader: Kit Sheffield

Members \$26; nonmembers \$36

Summer Fungus Walk

Sunday, August 4 (9-11 am)

Leader: Serenella Linares

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Introduction to Dragonflies and Damselfies

Thursday, August 8 (7:30-9:30 pm) &

Sunday, August 11 (3/4 day field trip)

Leaders: Lisa Shannon and Richard Orr

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$24; nonmembers \$34



Feature Photos



Photo by Jane Gamble

A female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a winter visitor to our region, picks a berry from a *Ilex cassine* holly.



Photo by Jane Gamble

“The photo was taken on the National Mall (if you can believe that - it lives there and I see it all the time!). I sometimes go birding during my lunch break, and I saw the hawk flying low over the ground, then it stopped by the squirrel, which I think it had caught earlier. It picked it up and flew into a nearby tree and posed beautifully for me in the autumn light.” – Jane Gamble, ANS member



Photo by Caroline Brewer

In the winter, the spectacular yellow petals of the Goldenrod turn to an almost snowy white and form dense starburst-shaped clusters of seeds to feed our avian friends. This image was captured during a mid-day walk through a Woodend meadow, where the two-to-six-foot tall spires are abundant.

Stream Science

For over 25 years, ANS has been teaching the natural history of aquatic ecology and training volunteer stream monitors who track the health of our region's streams. Learn from the experts: study stream science in our introductory classes, and you just might be inspired to become a stream monitor yourself! Our advanced classes are perfect for those interested in deepening their knowledge about stream biology and are taught by our Maryland Biological Stream Survey-certified instructor Cathy Wiss. To learn more about classes or becoming a volunteer, contact cathy.wiss@anshome.org or visit anshome.org/water-quality-monitoring.

Registration & Fee Information

Registration required: register online at www.anshome.org/adults. The classes are open to anyone 10 years and older. Except for Macro ID Review & Quiz, prices for all classes are \$15 Members/\$25 Nonmembers; waivers are available for existing ANS monitors and middle and high school students earning SSL credit—email cathy.wiss@anshome.org for details.

Introduction to Stream Science Series



Classroom Session

Healthy Stream Biology

Section B: Thursday, March 28 (7-9:30 pm)

Section C: Wednesday, June 5 (7-9:30 pm)

**Sections B & C cover the same material
Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD**

In the classroom, we will explore how “benthic macroinvertebrates” – organisms that live in the bottom of streams – help us assess a stream’s health. We will learn how to identify these organisms to the taxonomic level of order through a PowerPoint presentation and by examining preserved specimens through a hands-on session with microscopes.

Field Workshop

Section A: Saturday, March 30 (9:30 am-12 pm)

Section B: Saturday, June 8 (9:30 am-12 pm)

Ten Mile Creek, Boyds, MD

In the field workshop, we will visit a healthy stream to practice monitoring techniques and to collect and identify the benthic macroinvertebrates we find. Sections A & B cover the same material.

How to Read Your Stream



Tuesday, April 2 (7-9:30 pm)

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

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. We will practice assessing stream habitat by using photographs of streams and the forms that monitors fill out in the field. This class is recommended for anyone who plans to participate in the ANS water quality monitoring program and is a good refresher on habitat assessment for experienced monitors.

Know Your Invasive Plants



**Woodend Sanctuary (Teale), Chevy Chase, MD
Saturday, May 18 (9:30 am-noon)**

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. An ANS/Rock Creek Conservancy Partnership.

Is There BACTERIA in Rock Creek?!

For decades, ANS has been testing the waters in Rock Creek Park, but we have never had the ability to test for bacteria that might make people sick until now. As part of a consortium led by the Anacostia Riverkeeper, we are preparing to train and deploy volunteers across the District of Columbia every week from May – September to sample the water at streams and rivers, and then test it for E. coli. Learn more at conservationblog.anshome.org.

**Do you want to get involved?
Training is Wednesday, April 10 (10 am-2 pm)
at Woodend Sanctuary.**

Send an email to cleanstreams@anshome.org with your full contact information and what ward you live in if you are a D.C. resident for training registration instructions.

What is Community Science?



For many years, ANS members, volunteers, and staff have been enthusiastic practitioners of rigorous, non-professional science at the community level. We observe and count organisms in streams, butterflies in meadows, trees in our forests, frogs in ponds, and much more. The commonly used phrase for this work for a long time has been “citizen science.” However, ANS recently overhauled our website to change to “community science,” and we just hosted our inaugural Community Science Summit. Why the change?

It’s simple: you don’t have to be a citizen to participate in community science! In our diverse region, we have countless short- and long-term residents with all the passion and precision that citizen science demands. We don’t want to exclude any of them from observing and recording what’s going on in nature, so we are using “community science” from now on in our programming and publications.

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/Adults for complete directions, additional trips, and more information. Turn to page 16 for the list of fee-based, instructional classes and field trips for beginning to mid-level birders. **Register online at www.anshome.org/adults.**

MARCH

Saturday, March 9 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 muddy conditions footwear. For more info, contact the leader Clive Harris at clivegharris@yahoo.com (15-person limit).

Tuesday, March 12 and Thursday, March 14 Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD Informal late afternoon bird walks until dusk

Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. **Meet time/place:** Meet promptly at 4:30 pm at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." We'll be checking out the river for waterfowl, gulls, terns, etc. Next stop will be Hughes Hollow. Highlights here include waterfowl flying into roost. We'll finish with displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope and flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. For more info, call the leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036 (no limit - all are welcome!).

Wednesday, March 27 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. For more info, contact leader Jim Waggener at 703-567-3555 (6-person limit).

APRIL

Saturday, April 13 Smallwood State Park, Charles County, MD Red-Headed Woodpeckers & Migrants

Half day. Joint trip with Southern Maryland Audubon. Smallwood State Park (2750 Sweden Point Road, Marbury, MD 20658) has become one of the best locations for Red-headed Woodpeckers in the state. We will also look for early migrants, with Louisiana Waterthrush highly likely. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at the Pavilion 1 parking area, past the campground. For more info, contact the leader, Lynne Wheeler, at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or text 301-751-8097.

Tuesday, April 16 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. For more info, contact the leader, Lydia Schindler, at lydia13621@gmail.com (preferred) or 301-977-5252 (8-person limit).

Wednesday, April 24 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 27 listing for details.

Sunday, April 28 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. For more info, contact the leader, Marc Liebermann, at mdlieberm@gmail.com (10-person limit).

MAY

Sunday, May 12 C&O Canal, MD Areas

Half day. Songbirds, waterbirds, raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7 am in parking lot at Riley's Lock on the Canal. For more info, contact the leader, Tony Futcher, at 301-422-3927 or tonyfutcher1@verizon.net.

Wednesday, May 29 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 27 listing for details.

JUNE

Sunday, June 2 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. Insect repellent highly advised, as is waterproof footwear. Extra water and sunscreen also recommended. For more info, contact the leader, Paul DeAnna, at 202-544-2680 or ppdeanna47@gmail.com (12-person limit).

Sunday, June 9 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. For more info, contact the leader, Karen Fairweather, at twofairs@msn.com or 703-841-1299 (10-person limit).

Wednesday, June 26 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See March 27 listing for details.

Online Registration

Register for Free Birding Trips online at www.anshome.org/adults.



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



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/adults.

The Living Soil

NATH7185E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Mondays, 6:30-8:30 pm

Class meetings: April 15-June 24

**Field trip dates: May 4, May 18 and June 8
(all 9 am-1:30 pm)**

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

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. No class on June 24. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Biology for Naturalists

NATH7110E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: April 16-June 18

**Field trip dates: April 27, May 4 and 18, and June 1
(three of the four required for completion)**

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Paula Wang

Explore the basic biological principles and processes that govern the natural world. Our evolutionary and ecological lens focuses on mechanisms, patterns, relationships, adaptations, and environmental influences. Topics include the cell and the genetic basis of life; evolution; biological diversity and the tree of life; and a comparative survey of the plant and animal kingdoms. Labs, outdoor activities and field trips provide hands-on opportunities to apply course content. This course is recommended background for other courses in the Natural History Field Studies Certificate Program. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Butterflies of Late Spring

NATH8277E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: May 21-June 18

**Field trip dates: June 1, June 8 and June 15 (two required;
Sunday rain dates)**

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Rick Borchelt

By late May, most of the early spring butterflies are history and an entirely new set of butterfly actors takes stage in the mid-Atlantic. June offers the greatest diversity of butterflies of the season, and provides a unique insight into butterfly-plant interactions and coevolution. Participants will learn to identify the expected butterflies in the mid-Atlantic, with special emphasis on swallowtails, hairstreaks, and nymphalids, including Maryland's state butterfly, the Baltimore Checkerspot. Students will observe and document caterpillars and their host plants of select species, participate in citizen-science documentation of butterfly diversity and abundance, and discuss/debate the role of recreational and scientific collecting in our understanding of butterfly biology. Three field trips will include a wide variety of habitats to maximize the numbers of species class participants will see. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Introduction to Ornithology

NATH7118E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: April 17-June 19

**Field trip dates: April 27 (Hughes Hollow), May 25
(Delaware shore birds), June 9 (Western Maryland)**

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, 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 canceled.*

Spring Courses April-June

Reptiles & Amphibians

NATH8276E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-8:15 pm

Class meetings: April 18-June 13

Field trip dates: May 5 (Jug Bay), May 18 (Anacostia Park/ Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, and June 8 (Huntley Meadows) and one TBD; students must attend at least 2 of 3

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

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Rachel Gauza

The course is an introduction to the study of reptiles and amphibians in the Mid-Atlantic region. Reptile and amphibian biology, ecology, behavior and natural history will be discussed. An emphasis will be placed on local species diversity, identification, and conservation. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

Rising CO2 and Global Warming

NATH7400E, 1.5 CEUs

Class day and time: Fridays, 10 am–12:30 pm

Class meetings: April 19-May 17

Field trip date: May 10 (all-day trip to Smithsonian Environmental Research Center)

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Tuition: \$269

Instructor: Bert Drake

Learn how greenhouse gases are changing temperature around the globe and how this impacts local natural systems. Explore the effects rising temperatures are having on polar ice caps and sea levels, and learn how rising atmospheric CO2 and rising temperatures threaten the world's food supply and its nutritional value. Discover how much carbon dioxide humans are producing and learn possible ways to reduce it, from renewable energy to electric cars, biomass energy with carbon capture and storage. *If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.*

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

Wetland Ecosystems

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Terry McTigue

Insect Life

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Cathy Stragar

Summer Wildflower Identification

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Sjuata Roy

Free Beginner's Bird Walks Saturdays, 8-9 am at Woodend

Have you ever wanted to learn about the birds you see regularly around Washington? Did you know that about 250 birds either pass through or make this area their home?

Join us Saturday mornings at Woodend for our Beginner Bird Walks. An excellent place to come for those just starting out or for those who want to learn more about our area's birds. From 8-9 am a volunteer leader will guide you through the important how tos: from how to use binoculars to how to identify our most prevalent resident birds.

Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at www.anshome.org/adults.

These gentle walks happen every Saturday morning from March through June, and September through November. Walks take place only on the first Saturday of December through February. There are no walks in July and August.

Be sure to visit the Audubon Naturalist Shop after the bird walk. The shop opens at 9 am on Saturdays and if you let the cashier know you attended that morning's bird walk they will provide you with a coupon for a discount in the shop.

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 Nauralist 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.

Nature Travel

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.

New Mexico: A Natural History Exploration

May 15-22, 2019

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn and Paul Pisano



Photo by Dave 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 May means catching the birds while they are migrating and the desert blooms when they are opening! Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org or go to www.anshome.org/adult for itinerary and costs.

Galapagos Islands: Darwin's Wild Classroom

June 21-30, 2019

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

Contact carol.hayes@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x10 for information on how to register for the trip. Prices per person will vary, depending on the size and location of individual cabins on the boat.

1 SPACE LEFT!

Oregon's Diverse Landscapes

August 16-25, 2019

Leaders: Mark Garland & Tom Reed

Search for birds and enjoy natural history in a diverse set of habitats on our new Oregon itinerary. We'll visit the scenic Columbia River Gorge on our way to Bend, a pleasant town along the Deschutes River at the eastern foot of the Cascades. Here we'll explore the sagebrush steppe of the high desert, the riparian corridor along the river, and montane forests and meadows of the Cascade Mountains. We then head to Newport along the scenic Oregon coast, searching for birds and marine mammals. A leisurely drive north along the coast takes us back to Portland, where the trip concludes. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org or go to www.anshome.org/adult for itinerary and costs.

Tanzania: East African Wildlands and Wildlife

November 1-11, 2019

Optional extension to November 14

Leaders: Stephanie Mason and local guides

Our Senior Naturalist, who travelled to Tanzania in late 2017, can't wait to experience once again the sights and sounds of a wildlife safari in this stable East African nation. Our itinerary includes visits to the renowned Ngorongoro Crater, the vast Serengeti grasslands, and the giant baobab trees of Tarangire National Park. Our optional extension visits the Selous Game Reserve, a World Heritage Site, in the southern part of the country. Join us to view and photograph an amazing assortment of wildlife - from giraffes to bee-eaters, from lions to hornbills - in their natural environments. Contact Carol at carol.hayes@anshome.org or go to www.anshome.org/adult for itinerary and costs.



Photo by Stephanie Mason

Looking Ahead to 2020

Nature Travel trips in the planning stages include: **Costa Rica, Mexico, Grand Canyon and Guatemala**. If you would like to receive info on any of these trips when it's available email carol.hayes@anshome.org.

For ANS Travels...or Your Own!

Consider travel insurance for any trip with our insurance partner Travelex. By using our code **20-6029** you will also be supporting ANS. Contact Carol at 301-652-9188 x10 for more information, or go to the Travelex website: travelexinsurance.com.

WOODEND NATURE SANCTUARY

Celebrate Life

"Thank you for your help while organizing my father's memorial. It went really well, and I couldn't have imagined a better spot to hold it."

J. F., Washington, D.C.



Celebrate the life of your loved one at historic Woodend Nature Sanctuary.

When you need a place to remember and share fond memories of your loved one with family and friends, consider historic Woodend Sanctuary & Mansion.

Nestled on a 40-acre nature sanctuary, Woodend is conveniently located in Chevy Chase, MD, and offers a private setting with planning support, on-site parking, and excellent catering options, so you can focus on what matters most to you in moments like this.

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!

Things That Go BUMP

Bump, thump, THWACK!

This winter hasn't been quiet at ANS. If you visited Woodend recently, you likely noticed new speed bumps on the drive. The bumps were placed at an angle to divert stormwater off the drive rather than rushing down into sewer drains, carrying pollutants.

Next time you're here, look up! You'll see a copper roof gleaming like a new penny over the third floor of the mansion. Before this year, Woodend was capped with its original, beautifully patinaed, 1927 copper roof. It was leaking, however, and needed to be replaced with identical materials, as required by our historic designation. Copper roofs are constructed onsite, so throughout January and February visitors heard bumps from above, as the malleable metal was banged and bent into shape.

The first floor of the mansion had some noisy days, too. In January the large bathroom across from the reception area was renovated. Down came the walls! In went new fixtures, floor, tile, and a baby changing station. The bright new bathroom officially opened in early February. The small powder room off the library and portico was next on the list.

Soon the bumps and thumps at Woodend will subside, and we will all enjoy nature's sounds of spring.



Photo by Ben Israel

Finishing the seams on Woodend's third floor copper roof.



Photo by Amy Ritsko-Warren

Woodend's new speed bumps divert water from the driveway to the meadow.

Restoration Update

What We Are Learning

Like most woodlands in our region, the forest at Woodend has been degraded in recent decades by deer over-browsing and the spread of invasive species. Now that we have constructed a deer fence, restoration of the forest is possible. The first step toward a healthier forest is to document current conditions. Chesapeake Conservation Corps member Bradley Simpson is working with volunteers to complete a comprehensive survey of forest vegetation at Woodend. So far the team has:

- Identified, measured and tagged over 2,000 trees.
- Shown that while large, mature, native tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) occupy the most space in the forest, the non-native Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) is nearly as abundant since it has produced many small seedlings that are not browsed by deer.
- Documented the absence of native groundcover on the forest floor.
- Demonstrated that the shrub layer at Woodend consisted of about equal numbers of native spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and invasive bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)

What We Are Doing

To restore biodiversity and ecosystem health in our forest, we are working to remove invasive species and reintroduce native ones. Some of that work is done through contracted professionals. But teams of volunteers will also be actively involved, especially in spring and fall. If you would like to get involved in the restoration of Woodend Sanctuary, please visit www.anshome.org/volunteer.



Japanese maples are not browsed by deer and therefore have many seedlings regenerating.

Photo by Bradley Simpson

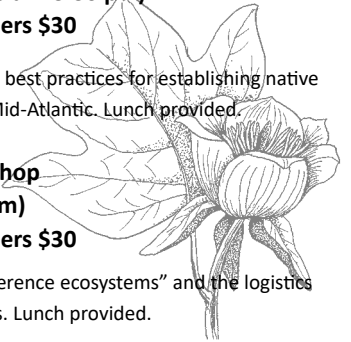
Want to Learn More? Register at anshome.org/adults

Meadow Restoration Summit
Wednesday, March 13 (10 am-3:30 pm)
Members \$25; nonmembers \$30

Learn from local experts about best practices for establishing native meadows on all scales in the Mid-Atlantic. Lunch provided.

Forest Restoration Workshop
Friday, April 5 (10 am-4 pm)
Members \$25; nonmembers \$30

Learn the science of using “reference ecosystems” and the logistics of planting native communities. Lunch provided.



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**Congratulations to ANS for
50 Years of Nature for All
at Woodend Nature Sanctuary**



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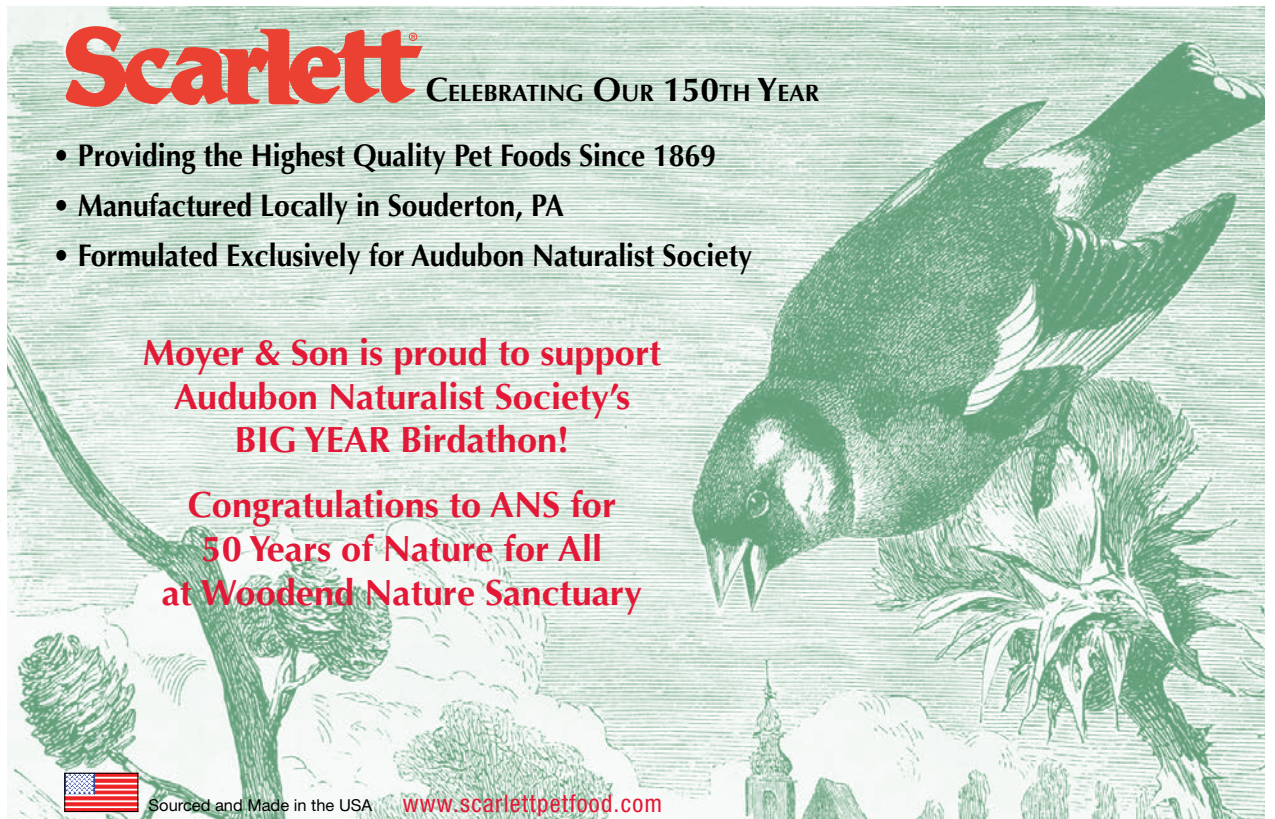




Photo by Ben Israel of our first bilingual Bird Walk with Latino Outdoors, led by ANS volunteer Denisse Guittarra

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY'S
Bloomin' Birdathon

**Swing into Spring with the
 ANS Birdathon 2019**

The Birdathon is a major fundraiser that supports ANS's education and advocacy/conservation programs.

In celebration of our BIG YEAR, we want to make this year's Birdathon the BEST EVER! And the MOST FUN!

Anyone can participate at any level. **Will you?**

Here's how it works

Individuals or teams count as many species of birds as they can in a 24-hour period during migration season (April 15-May 31, 2019) and get sponsors to pledge a set amount of money per species seen or a flat amount for their efforts. You can count:

- out in the field
- on your own in your backyard
- with your family at a favorite walking/picnic spot
- at a naturalist-led Birdathon walk at Woodend
- in teams of friends or colleagues

However you choose to do it, the Birdathon is a fun and rewarding way to get outdoors and support ANS and is open to lovers of nature of all ages.

Our goal is to get at least **20 more people/teams** to participate as counters. We have lots of ways that we can make this easy for you – **including your own personalized Birdathon webpage.**

As part of our BIG YEAR, prizes will be awarded at a Tally Rally in June. And every individual who raises more than \$250 and each person in a team that raises more than \$500 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$150 gift certificate to the Audubon Naturalist Shop.

Rather count Blooms?

No problem! Just ask your sponsors to pledge for the number of species of wildflowers you see in a given 24-hour period between April 15 and May 31. Or count both birds and blooms. The main thing is to get out and enjoy the spring while benefitting ANS. Thank You!

For questions or more information, contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or loree.trilling@anshome.org.

Don't know enough about birds or how to ask for sponsors? We can help!

Attend the BIG YEAR Birdathon Training and Kick-off Event

Monday, April 8, 6:30-8 pm, at Woodend

Register here: www.anshome.org/birdathon

Can't make the Kick-off Event? Go to www.anshome.org/birdathon for online resources, tips, and links.



Volunteer Corner

An occasional feature that highlights ANS volunteers

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

Allow me to introduce a new volunteer. Peihan Orestes is a MD Master Naturalist Intern. Since finding ANS, she has given nearly 30 hours of her time to school programs, Creek Critters, and our Children's Garden.

Peihan is a trained research neuroscientist whose "love of the outdoors has [her] spending most of [her] time running on trails!" In fact, she found ANS by, "running past...Woodend in Rock Creek Park" We get here differently; what we have in common is that we keep coming back.

Peihan's favorite memory of volunteering "was looking at [everything] that lives under the rocks in Rock Creek. I've been ...splashing through the creek for years, but never realized the diversity of things that live [there]! In the water! With awesome names like hellgrammite! I love bugs, but this was a whole new world."

Helping with our School Programs lets Peihan, "literally open doors to nature" for those who don't yet know just how much they enjoy it.

Peihan says that she volunteers "not only because Mitch says I have to, but because I've learned so much and want to share it all." It is that desire to share that helps bond us as a *society* of naturalists.

Peihan is among the newest members of our society, and she continues to learn even as she teaches. Thank you, Peihan.

Thank you, MD Master Naturalist class of 2018! Peihan is a representative sample of the dedication and commitment all of you have shown since you joined us!

To learn more about our school programs please contact me, Serenella Linares, or if you're in Virginia, Susanne Ortman.



Photo by David Laks

Peihan Orestes and Bob Mecklenburg assist with Jenny's Garden Group during the 2018 MD Master Naturalist course.

A World of Impact

Congratulations to
Mark S. Garland
 Recipient of ANS's
**Paul Bartsch Award for Distinguished
 Contributions to Natural History**

**Award Ceremony
 and Champagne and Dessert Reception**

Woodend Nature Sanctuary
 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD

Sunday, March 10, 2019
 1:30pm – 3:30pm



Tickets: \$25

**Purchase a ticket or make a tribute
 gift at: <http://anshome.org/bartsch>**



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

ISO: A few good birders

The "venerable" Voice of the Naturalist (now approaching 40) is looking for two or three additional compilers. This volunteer position requires solid knowledge of North American birds, bird identification, and patterns of occurrence, as well as familiarity with birding locales in the Voice area (DC, MD, VA, DE). In addition, compilers need to be computer-literate, comfortable with Word, and abreast of reporting sources such as eBird, local listservers, and birding Facebook pages--and/or open to sharpening these skills.

Each compiler produces a report once every month or so (schedules tailored to fit). The weekly report is distributed every Tuesday not only through the Audubon Naturalist Society, MDBirding, and VA-Birds, but also nationwide to several hundred subscribers of BirdEast.

Preparing a week's report takes a serious time commitment, starting with especially close attention to bird reports throughout the week. Volunteers can count on all the help they want, in the form of mentoring as well as a collection of background resource papers. It's also possible to do the Voice as a team, as is the case with birder Rick Sussman and his computer-savvy wife Nancy.

It can be fun, it can be challenging, it can be rewarding. If this sounds like it might be a good fit for you, please contact Pam Oves, Pam.Oves@anshome.org.

MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS November 2018-January 2019

IN HONOR OF:

Jill Cahn

David Elfin

Edwin Clark

Anne Litchfield

Nora Kelly

Peter Colarulli; Lorraine Snell

Liz Jones

Deborah & Ray Peck

Ahmed Khan

Kristie Miller

Louise Lees

Dave & Alison Waxman

Don Messersmith

Mark England; Rebecca Hedin; Anna Urciolo

Cecily Nabors

Pro Wealth Management, LLC

Ay Hieng Phu

Robert McGaughy

Sudi Press

Emilie & Jon McBride

Anne Sturm

Kristie Miller

Katherine Haskell Subramanian

Kristie Miller

Adria Zeldin & Peter Gray

Sharon Light

IN MEMORY OF:

Francis Boyd

Marguerite Kingston

Madeleine J. Brown

Francine Brown

Yoli Del Buono

Janet Dale; Sabrina Pacifici

Ellen Dashner

Rita Svec

Gail Gorlitz

Christopher Smith

Pearl Marks

Carol Anderson; Matthew & Simone Dickstein

Marguerite Mayo

Kristina Gilbertson

Sandy McKnight

Bethesda Community Garden Club

Gretchen Minners

Bethesda Community Garden Club

Ted Oberman

Vera & Ralph Deckelbaum; Amiel & Helen Francke

Randell Hunt Prothro, Capt. USN (Ret)

Kim & Randy Dickhut; Bill Dickinson; Carolyn Donnelly; Keller Steinberg Family; Mimi B. Kress; Nancy Matthews; Sara Mazie; Michael P. Parker; Paul & Tina Schmid; George Shapiro; Mollie & Hugh Sherry

Max Rosenberg

Betty Brody

Michael Trister

Nancy Duff Campbell

Barbara Van Flandern

Brenda & Tom Corbin

Tony White

Judith Coleman

Gail Winslow

Tim & Cecilia Winslow

LEGACY GIFTS TO ANS



Marilynn (Lynn) Liotta was an active member of ANS for almost 30 years before she passed away in the fall of 2018. A gifted educator and keen gardener, Lynn had a deep passion for all of natural history and took many courses with ANS over the years.

Born in Somerville, New Jersey, Lynn's career took her to California, Switzerland and

finally to Washington, DC where she worked for several years for the Institute for Policy Studies. However, it was her educator's talent that brought her back to teaching at the Evergreen Montessori School in Montgomery County, Maryland, where she taught until her retirement in 2014.

Following her retirement, Lynn became a more active volunteer at Woodend Nature Sanctuary. She was regularly seen tending the plants and flowers as a member of our Blair Native Plant Garden volunteer team and helping with ANS children's programs.

Lynn's longstanding commitment to the natural world will continue well into the future through the generous bequest she left to ANS that will benefit Nature for All projects. We are deeply grateful to Lynn for her wonderful legacy gift which will do so much to support our sanctuary work at Woodend and help nurture the next generation of nature stewards.

We are deeply grateful to all the members of our Legacy Society for their visionary commitment to ANS. For more information about how to join the Legacy Society, please contact Jacky Wershale at jacky.wershale@anshome.org or 301-652-9188 x31.



SAVE THE DATE

A very special Conservation Café will be held twice on **Thursday, April 25, 2019** to premiere the ANS and Heritage Montgomery documentary honoring the 50th Anniversary of Woodend Nature Sanctuary and our Nature for All movement.

The Land of Woodend explores 300 years of history, mystery, beauty, blight, and transformation on the land that has been home to the environmental programs of the Audubon Naturalist Society for the past 50 years. It reveals how we're renewing habitats across the landscape and strengthening ties to nature with the precious people of the DC region.

Stay tuned to anshome.org and your emails for how you can join us **Thursday, April 25 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm or 7-8:30 pm** for the surprises and delights of an inherited space that's on the brink of its most gorgeous days.



Documentary Images by Ben Israel

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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.

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Master Naturalist Training at Woodend Sanctuary!

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

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

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

DATES: Mondays & Wednesdays, September 9–November 20, 2019
(10 am –3 pm)

Application-based admission limited to 20 participants.

If you'd like to learn more about the natural world and become a trained naturalist volunteer, apply online starting May 15 at ANSHome.org/master-naturalist. Questions? Email mitch.greene@anshome.org.

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Celebrate

50

years of Nature for All

Audubon After Dark

SAVE THE DATE May 30, 2019