

**AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY**



# Naturalist Quarterly

Winter 2020

**ANSHOME.ORG**



**Audubon  
Naturalist  
Society**

Connecting people with  
nature in the DC Region

Join us in being the Voice of HOPE  
for Nature!

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

#### GROUNDS HOURS

Dawn to dusk

#### ANS MEMBERSHIP

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

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#### MANAGING EDITOR

Caroline Brewer

#### SENIOR EDITOR

Pam Oves

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#### CONTACT INFORMATION

ANS Headquarters/Woodend Sanctuary  
301-652-9188  
FAX 301-951-7179  
ANShome.org  
contact@anshome.org  
Audubon Naturalist Shop  
301-652-3606  
Conservation, MD x22  
Conservation, VA 571-278-5535  
Environmental Education x16  
Membership x35  
Publications, advertising x23  
Rentals x38  
Volunteers x20  
Contributions x31  
Special Events x12  
Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

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# Naturalist Quarterly

ANShome.org Winter 2020

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**COVER** Photo of Eastern Bluebird from North American Birds in Photographs. With the constant removal of dead wood in urban areas, nesting locations for bluebirds have diminished. This past summer, we had a nesting pair of bluebirds in a bird box at Woodend with two successful broods. They have given us more hope for nature.

**Correction:** in our previous issue we inadvertently attributed the planting of the Blair Native Plant Garden at Woodend to the Jones family instead of the Blair family. We deeply regret this mistake and any embarrassment it may have caused.

## STAFF UPDATES

Environmental Education is thrilled to welcome **Denis Josefina Perez-Ordonez** to the team. Denis is originally from Chihuahua, Mexico and her background is in ecology, wildlife management, and conservation. Using her love for children and education, Denis will be supporting our School Programs work, with an emphasis on teaching the Garbology program and leading after school clubs.

## From the Director

### Hope is Everywhere

Aren't they amazing – all these young people around the world who are standing up for their beliefs? Whether it is Joshua Wong leading Hong Kong pro-democracy protests and being jailed for it, or Malala Yousafzai, risking her life to speak out for women's rights in Pakistan and being shot for it, or Greta Thunberg rallying global action on the climate crisis and being ridiculed for it, these brave young people are the face of our future. As is Jerome Foster, a climate change activist who lives right here in our region. Jerome attends a DC Public Charter School, and is a World Bank SustainUS Delegate, a National Geographic Icelandic Explorer, a Certified Climate Reality Leader, and the founder of the Climate Reporter, a youth-led climate change journalism organization. Wow!

I am deeply inspired by the commitment of these young people to their causes. It gives me hope. And Greta puts a finer point on it when she says, "Where there is action, there is hope." Hope is Audubon Naturalist Society's watchword during this season of giving. And action is our strong suit – including rallying more than 100 ANS supporters to join young activists at the Youth Climate Strike on Capitol Hill this past September.

Now that we are bringing to life the four promises of Nature for All, it is time to turn our attention to creating new programs that will inspire people of all ages and abilities to take action. We are hard at work on partnerships with DC Public Schools and the Montgomery County Housing Partnership, making sure that when the ribbon is cut on the Nature Play Space, we have scores of young children, their teachers, parents and caregivers ready to play and learn in nature with us. I'm especially excited about the adult training we'll be doing in the Play Space, helping the grown-ups embrace the importance of nature play and the developmental benefits it provides to our kids.

As we prepare to break ground on our first-ever, wheelchair accessible nature trail, we're convening and consulting with veterans groups, senior centers and government offices that support adults and children with disabilities. Together, we're planning spaces and programs that will enrich the lives of people who may have few, if any, chances to unplug in nature today. All of our region's residents, from veterans to seniors to children with disabilities, deserve the chance to experience the healing power of nature.

And as we work to improve the indoor and outdoor classrooms that are the heart and soul of Woodend Nature Sanctuary, we are taking action to ensure that all communities in our region are welcomed into ANS's network of nature stewards and advocates. Our upcoming Taking Nature Black Conference will, for the third time, bring together African American environmental professionals for learning, sharing and galvanizing thought in our region. We've added a second day to harness all the good energy the conference generates, and we'll turn that energy into inclusive environmental action plans for the region.

As you think about your own family and friends this holiday season, please think about what you can do to bring more hope to our region. Bestow an ANS membership on your nearest and dearest - ([www.anshome.org/membership](http://www.anshome.org/membership)). Membership is a gift that keeps on giving! After you've shopped in our Naturalist Shop, use Amazon Smile for your online shopping and designate ANS to receive a donation with every gift you send. Please give generously to ANS with your year-end contribution. Your support will help create those terrific new programs that will grow the community of people who take action to protect nature.

Thank you for being part of our ever-growing ANS community. Together we are building HOPE for the future of our precious natural world.



## Staff Recommendations for the Holidays from the Naturalist Shop



in the region. Take one home next time you visit the ANS Shop.

### Denisse Guitarra, Maryland Conservation Advocate

Chocolates! Oh, who does not like them? And especially if they are bird friendly. The ANS Shop now sells Pacari Chocolates, a single origin, artisanal brand developed by growers who follow equitable trade practices. These delicious, sustainably grown chocolates come from plants that serve as habitat to native and migratory bird species in the rainforests of Ecuador. They also support the local communities and greener jobs



### Ari Eisenstadt, DC Conservation Advocate

I love the ANS shop because I seem to be able to find a gift for everyone I care about, regardless of their interests. My brother, who is the furthest thing from a naturalist, loves the funky socks hanging on the wall. My mom absolutely adores her copy of *The Hidden Life of Trees*, and my dad was thrilled with the wind chimes I got him for his birthday. I, myself, have acquired a favorite mug from the Shop, complete with a geological time scale printed on the outside!



### Carol Hayes, Office Coordinator

On my nearly daily excursions to visit our wonderful Shop staff and volunteers, something new always catches my eye, from a lovely collection of made in the USA cotton kitchen towels to fair trade gingerbread chocolate bars. But my top pick would have to be a book currently I'm enamored of, *Dragonflies & Damselflies – A Natural History* by Dennis Paulson. Featuring gorgeous color photos of these amazing animals, I'll have all winter to immerse myself in their natural history and be ready to sign up for some ANS dragonfly field trips come summer!



### Ami Smerling, Assistant Property Manager

I've always had a fascination with optics and extending the human eye, which is a cool thing to do. So I'd recommend the Zeiss Victory Harpia 95 spotting scope for birding. I think it's pretty awesome that they have a device that, without having to walk anywhere near the object, you can see it perfectly, without having to disturb it. The Shop also has a cool book on mushrooms, *Mushrooms Demystified* by David Arora. It's a study of 2,000 species of wild mushrooms, with lots of photos, chapters on terminology and classification, mushrooms to cook with and those you should leave alone. Really grabs you.

**The Audubon Naturalist Shop's proceeds support our mission work. It is open Mondays-Fridays 10 am-5 pm, Saturdays 9 am-5 pm, and Sundays 10 am-5 pm. Call 301-652-3606 for more info on any of these gift ideas.**

# Join us in being the voice of HOPE for Nature!



We live in a world, a natural world, where beauty and wonder abound.

Where a little attention rewards us with bounties of peace, serenity, and priceless connection.

We live in a world, a natural world, where children have permission to see, hear, touch, smell, and taste in ways that they will always remember.

However, our precious natural world faces unprecedented threats from loss of wildlife habitat, climate change, and a lack of appreciation of how inextricably tied our fortunes are to the planet.

Our natural world needs hope and it needs you. Please continue to join us in being the voice of HOPE. The photos below help show the difference that your voice makes. Take action today to help us continue to protect and heal the planet with your year-end gifts. Please donate at [anshome.org/give](http://anshome.org/give).

## WITHOUT ANS

## WITH ANS



VS

ANS goes on TV to show everyone can do something.



VS

ANS creates green corridors with native plants to help wildlife thrive in our urban region.

# WITHOUT ANS



VS

# WITH ANS



ANS's demonstration sites and classes show people how easy (and beautiful) it can be to prevent flooding.



VS



Thousands of children get to unplug and play in nature with ANS each year.



VS



Children from 24 DC schools learn about waste management, recycling and keeping our water clean with ANS.



**Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Environmental Joy!**  
AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY 2020 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

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**Thursday, February 27, 2020**  
**8:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Registration: \$50**

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute**  
**4000 Jones Bridge Road**  
**Chevy Chase, MD 20815**

[anshome.org/taking-nature-black](https://anshome.org/taking-nature-black)

# Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Environmental Joy on the Menu for ANS's 2020 Taking Nature Black Conference

Camille T. Dungy, editor of *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry*, says in the introduction that her collection is meant to emphasize the fact that “we are always a part of the natural world, even when we feel the most alienated from it.”

Thursday, February 27, 2020 will play host to the third Taking Nature Black Conference. Taking Nature Black is sponsored by ANS and its partners, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Patuxent Riverkeeper, the University of Maryland–College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, M-NCPPC, the Corps Network, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The conference is designed to demonstrate the forever connection of all people to the natural world, as Dungy points out. And it's designed specifically to highlight the role that African Americans have played in supporting the environment through speakers, panels, professional development, entertainment, including music and poetry, and relationship-building opportunities.

Our theme is Climate Change, Environmental Justice and Environmental Joy: Since 1619.

**Registration is now open at [anshome.org/taking-nature-black](https://anshome.org/taking-nature-black).** Check it out for more details and updates on the topics we'll cover.

Contact Conference Chair Caroline Brewer at [caroline.brewer@anshome.org](mailto:caroline.brewer@anshome.org) for more information about the conference and sponsorships.

Photo by Kevin Lukusa



*Dawone Robinson of the VA Natural Resources Council will speak on Climate Change and Climate Justice.*



Photo by Kevin Lukusa

*Storyteller Karen Wilson Ama'Echefu will return to 2020 Taking Nature Black with singing and poetry.*

Photo by Kevin Lukusa



*Attorney Tracy McCurdy and Patuxent Riverkeeper Fred Tutman return for 2020 Taking Nature Black.*



Photo by Kevin Lukusa

*Kim Lambert, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are a 2020 Taking Nature Black Partner.*

# Conservation



## Policy and Advocacy News

### Regional

**ANS signs on to protect the Clean Water Act:** ANS and its Choose Clean Water Coalition partners blanketed Congress with letters opposing the EPA's proposal to roll back section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Section 401 prohibits discharge into waters of the United States without a water quality test.

**ANS at the Global Youth Climate Strike:** Inspired by youth climate activist Greta Thunberg, ANS and more than 100 members and friends from DC, Maryland, and Virginia marched through the streets of Washington on September 20 to join 4 million strikers worldwide demanding climate change action. ANS supports the youth leaders, shares their urgency, and respects their demands. ANS looks forward to working on local, state, national, and global policies that will help residents of all ages in our region mitigate and become resilient in the face of the climate crisis.



Photo by John Brill

*Long Branch families taking a boat ride on the Anacostia River, thanks to ANS and its partner, the Anacostia Watershed Society.*

### Maryland

**ANS advocates for sustainable and equitable transportation:** ANS has joined the Maryland Advocates for Sustainable Transit (MAST), a coalition that is advocating for sustainable, accessible, affordable, inclusive, and equitable transportation solutions that will more effectively address the climate crisis and transportation problems for Maryland residents.

**ANS finishes successful Long Branch Project:** What Lives in Long Branch Creek?/¿Qué vive en el arroyo de Long Branch? was a yearlong community engagement project hosted by ANS and Long Branch community partners. Our partners included Rolling Terrace's Linkages to Learning, Community Health and Empowerment Through Education and Research (CHEER), Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC), Montgomery County Parks and the Dance Exchange group. The project, funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, engages Latinx families along Long Branch stream in nature exploration. Those activities included using ANS's Creek Critters app to find aquatic insects that live in Long Branch and what that means for the health of the neighborhood stream. We hosted trips up and down the Anacostia river and toured the Anacostia watershed to help residents see how human actions impact the region. Our final event featured a nature walk and dancing, Long Branch stream information tables and family activities. We were honored to have our funders and partners from Montgomery Parks and Montgomery Planning join us.



Photo by Ben Israel

*Youth Climate Strikers hold up signs in front of the U.S. Capitol on September 20 as part of the Global Youth Climate Strike in Washington, DC.*

**Interested in getting involved or learning more?**  
**Sign up for our Action Alert list and read full versions of all these (and more) recent stories at [conservationblog.anshome.org/tag/NQSe19](https://conservationblog.anshome.org/tag/NQSe19).**



*Congratulations to ANS alum Monica Billger (our prior NOVA Advocacy Manager) who won a seat on the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors in the November election. We look forward to her continued conservation contributions!*

# Conservation



## Virginia

**ANS continues to advocate on land use issues:** ANS partnered with the Coalition for Smarter Growth and the Sierra Club Great Falls Group to submit comments on the Merrifield Comprehensive Plan Amendment supporting the preservation of forest cover, stronger stormwater retention goals, and better multi-modal transportation options. An environmentally strong task force and engaged Friends groups (Friends of Accotink Creek and the newly formed Friends of Holmes Run) also helped amend the comprehensive plan language to further benefit local ecosystems.

Along the Richmond Highway corridor, ANS remains engaged with the Embark Richmond Highway initiative, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, and VDOT road widening. ANS participated in a community listening session, submitted comments with partners in regards to the BRT project, and continues to facilitate community engagement in this area.

**ANS partners with Plant NOVA Natives for HOA symposia:** This fall, ANS helped to organize and present at a set of symposia designed to help community associations implement sustainable solutions to landscaping concerns. Board and committee members, management companies, and community association residents came to learn about the connection communities have to our watersheds and how native plants can help restore important ecosystem functions on community property.



Photo by Nancy Vehrs

*ANS and Plant NOVA Natives symposia drew big crowds to learn about sustainable landscaping solutions.*

## Community Science Summit

See page 36 for information on our second Community Science Summit at Woodend on Sunday, January 26.

## Workshops

Learn more and register at [anshome.org/training](http://anshome.org/training)  
Location: Woodend Sanctuary  
Prices for Members/Nonmembers

## Washington, DC

**ANS Advocates for Clean Energy in DC:** Throughout the fall, ANS continued to build partnerships with diverse organizations working to fight climate change in DC, such as Sierra Club, Ward 8 Woods Conservancy, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and DC Environmental Network.

As a member of the DC Climate Coalition, ANS has been helping implement the DC Green Bank, which will provide loans to District residents to improve energy efficiency in buildings. ANS is working to make sure that low-to-to-moderate income residents have access to this source of important funding for building retrofits and sustainability improvements. ANS also continues to engage with the District Department of Energy and Environment to promote implementation of energy efficiency regulations for large buildings in the District. These regulations are crucial to meeting the city's renewable energy goals by 2032 because buildings make up 75% of greenhouse gas emissions in DC.

**ANS is Fighting for the Environment in DC's Budget:** ANS is expanding its organizational capacity to engage with the DC Council on funding environmental programs in the District. As the budget season approaches, ANS is gathering support for key environmental priorities and meeting with staff from councilmembers' offices.



*The Anacostia River in October. Taken while ANS was on a walk with partners to discuss equitable access to the river.*

## Conservation Cafés

Join us for coffee and dessert while enjoying inspiring presentations on nature conservation topics. Conservation Cafés unless otherwise noted are at Woodend Sanctuary from 7-8:30 pm. Your \$15 registration fee supports our Conservation Program! **See descriptions and register at [www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe](http://www.anshome.org/conservation-cafe).**

### Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday, January 23:** Listen to the Children: Roundtable with DC's Youth Climate Activists. FREE, at the Mt. Pleasant Library in DC.
- **Tuesday, February 4:** Getting Involved with the Maryland & DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3 with Gabriel Foley.
- **Thursday, March 26:** Meet new NOVA Eco-Advocates and Tell Them What They Can Do for You. FREE, in NOVA at Providence District Community Center.



# Adults and Nature



Photo by Ben Israel

Fall leaves and fruits were the focus of our autumn drawing workshop led by local artist Tina Thieme Brown. After a walk in the woods, Tina led nature enthusiasts, such as this participant, through the steps of creating an image from their field observations. The only requirements needed: a love of nature and a desire to observe it more closely.



Photo by Stephanie Mason

Glittering hummingbirds, such as this Green Violetear, are eye-catching favorites on our annual nature travel trip to the tropical wonderland of Costa Rica. These small, speedy birds move their wings in a figure 8 pattern at an average rate of 40-80 beats per second, enabling them to stay airborne while flying forward, backwards, sideways, and up and down.



Photo by Mary Sahdev

ANS's Tales and Trails program, for children ages 2-4, visited the Learning Garden to see what was still growing in the fall. Environmental Educator Gina Ghertner and friends found string beans, which they split open and discovered that small seeds were growing inside.

# 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!



## Tales and Trails

**Ages 2-4 with a caregiver**

**Tuesdays, January 7-March 17 (No class February 18) (10-10:45 am)**

**Winter Session: \$80 per child**

**Register early as we need a minimum of 8 children!**

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](http://www.anshome.org/parents). Questions? Contact Gina at [gina.ghertner@anshome.org](mailto:gina.ghertner@anshome.org).

## 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)**

**Spring Session: April 3-June 5 (no class April 10 or May 29)**

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

**Register at [anshome.org/parents](http://anshome.org/parents)**

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



## Audubon Nature Preschool

The Audubon Nature Preschool features programs for children aged 6 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](http://anshome.org/ans-preschool) for more info or call Preschool Director Stephanie Bozzo at 301-652-9188 x32.

## Story Hikes and Audubon Nature Preschool tours

RSVP online at [www.anshome.org/events-calendar](http://www.anshome.org/events-calendar). Children encouraged to attend! Please dress to walk our trails.

- December 6, 2019 (12:30-1:30 pm)
- January 11, 2020 (9:30-11 am)
- February 1, 2020 (9:30-11 am)

## Preschool Community Events (\$10 per family)

**Wonder and Wander  
Saturday, December 7 (10 am -12 pm)**

Story hikes and art & crafts activities.

# Camp Audubon

## Important Dates for 2020 Summer Camp Registration

- **Friday, December 6, 2019**  
Last day to become an ANS member and be eligible for members-only registration
- **Late December, 2019**  
Catalog mailed to ANS members
- **Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 10 a.m. - Friday, January 24, 2020, 4:00 p.m.**  
Registration opens to ANS members who joined by 12/6/19.
- **Saturday, January 25, 2020, 10 a.m.**  
Registration opens to nonmembers and to new members who joined after 12/6/19

If you have any questions or need to check your membership status or member ID number, please email [pam.oves@anshome.org](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).



## Nature Camp at **BURGUNDY**

CENTER FOR WILDLIFE STUDIES

*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+)  
One weekend | July

American Camping  
Association Accredited

*Capon Bridge, WV | 58th Season*

*Information Sessions: Winter 2020*  
Burgundy Farm Country Day School  
3700 Burgundy Road | Alexandria, VA

Audubon Natural Society | Woodend  
8940 Jones Mill Rd | Chevy Chase, MD

For more information:  
[burgundycenter.org](http://burgundycenter.org) | 703.842.0470  
[michelem@burgundyfarm.org](mailto:michelem@burgundyfarm.org)

## Spring Break Camp (Grades K-9)

Register online at  
[www.anshome.org/parents](http://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.

**Monday, April 6-Friday, April 10**  
**(8:45 am-3 pm)**

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

**Members \$365; nonmembers \$450**



## MCPS School's Out Camps (Grades K-9)

Register online at  
[www.anshome.org/parents](http://www.anshome.org/parents)

Do you want your children to be outside in nature learning and having fun on their day off from school? Then send them to our School's Out Camp! We'll explore the Woodend Nature Sanctuary, get muddy in the pond, build forts, and play games.

**Tuesday, April 28 (8:45 am-5 pm)**  
**Members \$100; nonmembers \$115**

## 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

## School Programs

Environmental science programs with ANS are designed to meet NGSS and Curriculum 2.0 Standards as well as Maryland Green School certification. Programs highlight human impacts, ecological systems, and watersheds through hands-on activities. Programs are for Grades K-8.

Nature-based learning for schools in Maryland & DC.

Woodend Nature Sanctuary Field Trips | Visit Mon - Fri at our 40-acre headquarters, 8940 Jones Mill Road, Chevy Chase, MD.

Naturalist in the Classroom | Save on travel fees and let us come to your classroom!

To learn more visit [anshome.org/teachers](http://anshome.org/teachers) or contact [serenella.linares@anshome.org](mailto:serenella.linares@anshome.org), 301-652-9188 x11.

For programs at our Rust Sanctuary in Leesburg, VA, contact [susanne.ortmann@anshome.org](mailto:susanne.ortmann@anshome.org).



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## Professional Development for Teachers

Would you like to enrich your curriculum with hands-on activities for your students? Let us share our education experience with you! Each workshop will provide you with the tools necessary to implement the lessons in your own classroom or schoolyard. Workshops are held year-round. Visit [www.anshome.org/teachers](http://www.anshome.org/teachers) for a schedule and to register online.

### Fungal Microscopy

**Saturday, December 14 (10 am-12 pm)**

**Price: \$35 per teacher (ANS member), \$40 (nonmember)**

**Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD**

Enter the fascinating world of aerobiology viewed from the fungal perspective. Learn to use a compound microscope and get firsthand experience on microscopy techniques to be applied in your classroom. Each attendee will receive a lesson plan to integrate microscopy in the classroom and a certificate of completion.



Photo by Serenella Linares

### Green Cleaners

**Thursday, February 13 (6-8 pm)**

**Price: \$35 per teacher (ANS member), \$40 (nonmember)**

**Woodend Nature Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD**

Have you ever wondered how common cleaning products in our daily lives impact your students' health and the quality of your air and water? This dynamic workshop explores where water comes from, sources of pollution, and the impact that cleaning products have on our health. Make an effective detergent using only organic materials! Participants will receive the lesson plan, green cleaner bottle, & certificate of completion. Lesson designed to fulfill MAEOE green school requirements.



Photo by Serenella Linares

# 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 Woodend Nature Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. Register online at [anshome.org/parents](http://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).

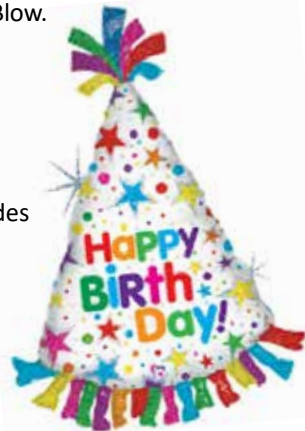


Photo by Julie Walkup

## Featured Grant Program

It may seem gross, but students really enjoy deconstructing and analyzing their lunchroom waste through the ANS "Garbology" program! Knowing that Americans produce over 250 million tons of trash every year, we created this program to allow students to delve deeper into the "science of garbage" and conduct their own hands-on investigations of composting, recycling, and litter at their schools. ANS staff also work closely with school teachers, administrators, and building services staff to improve school waste management practices through this program. ANS has delivered Garbology to DC schools since 2017, and we were recently awarded a new two-year Environmental Literacy Advancement Grant from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to deliver this fun, investigative program to students at 24 elementary schools across the District during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.



Photo of students at Hearst Elementary School by Steven Pearce

## Nature Backpacks

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

# 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](http://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](mailto:pam.oves@anshome.org).

## Winter Birding at Black Hill

**Section A: Sunday, December 1 (8:30-11 am)**

**Section B: Saturday, January 4 (8:30-11 am)**

**Section C: Saturday, February 1 (8:30-11 am)**

**Section D: Sunday, March 1 (8:30-11 am)**

**Leader: Mark England**

**Each walk: members \$24; nonmembers \$34**

**Entire series \$87/\$123**

The winter months can be an ideal time to learn more about birds and birding, and Black Hill Regional Park, in upper Montgomery County, is an ideal outdoor classroom for this study. Each walk in our series, intended for beginning to mid-level birders, will visit one or more sites in the Park in a search for waterfowl, sparrows, raptors, and other both resident and overwintering species. The Park's habitats are varied and include wetlands and Little Seneca Lake, as well as forest and field. Join us for the entire series and observe the seasonal changes in numbers and species, or just sign up for individual walks.

## Winter in the Parks

**(9 am-1 pm)**

**A: Saturday, December 7: Jug Bay Natural Area, MD**

**B: Sunday, January 5: Huntley Meadows, VA**

**C: Sunday, February 2: Rock Creek Park, DC**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Each walk members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

**Entire series \$76/\$103**

Sign up for one or more of these seasonal, broad-based nature explorations of nearby parks rich in natural history. Winter is often called 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 series of walks to observe winter wildlife and plants, all the while discussing their strategies for winter survival. We'll work to cover between 2-3 miles, with some uphill and downhill on walks A and C, in order to counter the likely chilly weather.

## Georgetown Geology Loop

**Saturday, December 7 (1-5 pm)**

**Leader: Joe Marx**

**Members: \$26; nonmembers \$36**

The Georgetown section of Washington, DC sits squarely on a mass of ancient granite, surrounded by various other types and ages of rock. Our hike will be around 5 miles long, through wooded parkland and along city streets. The terrain varies from easy to moderate, with hills being the biggest challenge. During our hike, we will visit the Coastal Plain, three canyons, the Piedmont upland, and a major fault zone. Not bad for an afternoon walk around town. *The pace set and distance covered on our geology field trips is faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."*

## Winter Waterfowl Prowl

**Sunday, December 8 (8 am-12:30 pm)**

**Leader: Mike Bowen**

**Members \$26; nonmembers \$36**

Late in the year is the best time to search for and learn to ID overwintering waterfowl in our area. Basing our search at wetlands and waterways relatively close-in to the metro area, we'll visit sites in or near the District, Northern Virginia, or Montgomery County. Our exact locations will be determined closer to the date of the field trip, based on our leader's scouting expeditions. While our focus will be waterfowl, we'll keep an eye open for all birdlife. All levels of birders welcome.

## Botanical Gems of Montgomery County: Blockhouse Point Conservation Park

**Sunday, December 8 (9:30 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Carole Bergmann**

**Members \$26; nonmembers \$36**

Rescheduled from November 24. See website for details.

## Winter Weeds

Friday, December 13 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

Not all herbaceous plants disappear in the winter. Many persist as dried stalks and seed clusters, with a beauty to match the season. Join ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason for an indoor/outdoor introduction to winter weed and wildflower identification at our Woodend Sanctuary. We'll also investigate seed dispersal strategies and examine plant skeletons for signs of summer insect activity, such as insect galls, chrysalids, cocoons, and egg cases.

## Winter Walks Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: January 8 - Carderock

Section B: January 22 - Widewater

Section C: February 5 - Swain's Lock

Section D: February 26 - Violettes Lock

Section E: March 11 - Pennyfield Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Entire series \$113/\$159

Join our Senior Naturalist for one or all of these walks along the C&O Canal as we look for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, practice winter botany skills, and enjoy the expansive views along the Potomac River that this season provides. Carpooling will be available from Woodend.

## Introduction to the Natural History of Lichens

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

Saturday, January 11 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Dr. Paula DePriest

Members \$42; nonmembers \$58

Lecture only: members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Winter is the perfect season to search for the varied hues and forms of lichens, the fascinating and mysterious inhabitants of unpolluted ecosystems. On Thursday night, Dr. Paula DePriest of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, will introduce us to the natural history of lichens through an illustrated lecture. Saturday's field trip to the Widewater area along the C&O Canal will give participants a chance to study and identify lichens in their natural environment.

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

## New Year's Moonwalk

Friday, January 10 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$25; nonmembers \$35

Cross your fingers for clear skies as we celebrate the New Year with a brisk walk under the light of the year's first full moon. We'll head upriver on the C&O Canal towpath from Swain's Lock, enjoying the shadows of arching sycamore trees and listening for the calls of owls and winter-active mammals. Distance covered will depend on the weather and conditions underfoot.

## Winter at Widewater

Saturday, January 11 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$28; nonmembers \$38

It's a brand new year. Time to get outside and walk off those excess calories consumed over the holidays. And where better to do that than along the Potomac River just outside the Beltway. We'll hike a 4-mile loop: along the C&O Canal towpath from the Widewater area upriver to Great Falls—and back. Leaves will be down giving us expansive views of the rocky woods, sycamore bottomlands, and flowing waters of the river as we search for winter active wildlife and try our hands at winter plant ID.

## Natural History of Galls

Sunday, January 12 (1:30-3:30 pm)

Leader: Cliff Fairweather

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Naturalist Edwin Way Teale called galls "edible homes" and that's not a bad two-word definition for these hijacked bits of plant tissue. Discover the fascinating, often complex, and occasionally bizarre world of galls, gall-makers, and their associates. Through an indoor/outdoor exploration at our Woodend Sanctuary, we'll learn about their natural history and develop our gall search-image.

## Native Plant Gardening

Winter Walk: Wednesday, January 15 (10 am-Noon)

Spring Walk: Tuesday, April 7 (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. 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; 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 of plants native to the mid-Atlantic.



## Fridays at Carderock

**Section A: January 17 (10 am-3 pm)**

**Section B: February 28 (10 am-3 pm)**

**Section C: March 20 (10 am-3 pm)**

**Section D: April 17 (9:30 am-3 pm)**

**Section E: May 15 (9:30 am-3 pm)**

**Each walk members \$34; nonmembers \$48**

**Entire series \$153; nonmembers \$216**

An elder of a Native American tribe from the Pacific Northwest advised: *There is more to be learned by climbing the same mountain a hundred times than by climbing a hundred different mountains.*

Following this admonition, our Senior Naturalist continues our series of broad-based nature explorations along the Potomac River's C&O Canal and its varied habitats, from upland rocky woods to rich floodplain forests. Our "searching for spring" hikes will return each month to a stretch of towpath from the Carderock Recreation Area upriver to Widewater. We'll retrace our steps along the Canal back to Carderock for a total of around 4 miles. We'll experience the winter world in January and February, and celebrate the first signs of spring in March. In April and May, we'll enjoy spring's great burst of new life, both in the plant world and amongst all manner of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals.

## Winter Tree ID for Birders

**Saturday, January 18 (2-4 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Free, but registration required.**

**FREE**

We're reprising this popular field trip to help birders learn to recognize the field marks of many common trees through binoculars. The outdoor classroom will be Scott's Run Nature Preserve near McLean, VA, where we'll ID trees in their winter aspect, all the while keeping our eyes and ears open for birds moving amongst them.

## Morning on a Monadnock

**Sunday, January 19 (9 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

Start the new year off with a nature hike on Sugarloaf Mountain, our local monadnock. We'll make stops to practice our winter plant ID skills, while keeping our eyes and ears open for activity of still-active wildlife, including birds and mammals. *Our hike will include some uphill and downhill as we cover 2-3 miles, including a fairly steep ¼ mile hike up to the summit (and down). Note: the mountain's trails will be rocky, uneven, and possibly muddy/slippery given the time of year.* The choice of trails and actual distance covered will depend upon the weather/ground conditions of the day.



## Winter Birds of the Coast

**Sunday, January 19 (9:30 am-5:30 pm)**

**Leaders: Cyndie Loeper and Paul Pisano**

**Members \$36; nonmembers \$50**

Bundle up and enjoy Ocean City, MD, without the crowds while we learn to identify birds that winter in and along the mid-Atlantic coast. Here and at other locations, including Cape Henlopen and Broadkill Marsh, we'll look for loons, sea ducks, raptors, and winter songbirds. We'll hope to find, identify, and discuss the natural history of birds such as the Red-throated Loon, Harlequin Duck, Northern Gannet, and Snow Bunting. This field trip is aimed at beginning and mid-level birders, but all are welcome. Our meeting point is about a 3-hour drive from Woodend.

## Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill

**A: Sunday, January 19 (3-5:30 pm)**

**B: Sunday, February 9 (3:30-6 pm)**

**Leader: Mark England**

**Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34**

You'll want to bundle up for these birding treks to the now-closed landfill adjacent to the Blue Mash Nature Trail, a familiar birding spot in upper Montgomery County. As afternoon fades to dusk in the open terrain here, we'll search for resident and overwintering species, including Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls. Our leader will bring along a scope for distant bird viewing. Our visit to this area, which is closed to the public, is by special permission. *Please register for one session only to allow for greater participation.*

## Winter Tree Identification

**Saturday, February 1 (10 am-2 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

Using the clues of buds, twigs, bark, and fruit, we'll practice identifying trees in winter in this half day workshop at our Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, MD. We'll begin inside with a look at techniques of winter tree identification and then move outside to use our new skills to identify many species of woody plants that grow on the grounds.

## Looking at Lichens

**Saturday, February 8 (2-4 pm)**

**Leader: Laura Mol**

**Members \$24; nonmembers \$34**

Amid the winter woodland palette of grays and browns, lichens are often colorful – especially when brightened by rain/snow. We'll search out these tiny contributors to the woodland web of life, noticing features of color, texture, shape, and reproductions, as well as noting lichen strategies for capturing light and moisture. Most of all, we'll admire the beauty and intricacy of these oft-overlooked organisms. Our field outing is aimed at lichen novices, but all are welcome on this 1.5 mile ramble in Wheaton Regional Park in MD. *Expect a bit of off-trail exploring, but most of our walk will follow natural-surface paths with some uphill/downhill and roots/rocks underfoot.*

## President's Day Hike on the Canal: Swain's Lock to Great Falls Loop

**Monday, February 17 (10 am-2:30 pm)**

**Leader: Cathy Stragar**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

Got the day off? Join us for our annual, mid-February holiday hike. This year, we'll head downriver along the C&O Canal towpath from Swain's Lock to Great Falls to enjoy views from the islands, made accessible by boardwalks. We'll retrace our steps along the towpath back to our cars at Swain's Lock for a total hike of 4.6 miles. As we pass by floodplain forests and wetlands, we'll keep our eyes and ears open for winter birds and other active wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills.

## Wonders at Woodend: Forest Bathing through the Seasons

**Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)**

**Section A: February 19**

**Section B: May 13**

**Section C: July 15**

**Section D: October 14**

**Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

**Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36**

**Entire series members \$94; nonmembers \$130**

Savor the natural joys of each season on 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.



twitter.com/ANStweets

## Window into the World of Fungi

**Thursday, February 27 (7-9 pm)**

**Leader: Tovi Lehmann**

**Free, but registration required.**

**FREE**

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

## Knock, Knock

**Saturday, February 29 (9 am-12 pm)**

**Leaders: Pam and Chris Oves**

**Free, but registration required.**

**FREE**

On this approximately 4-mile roundtrip bird walk along the Canal's towpath at Riley's Lock, we'll work to see or at least hear all 7 species of woodpeckers (a grand-slam!) that frequent our woods this time of year. Our walk is aimed at beginning birders. *This walk will go faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."* Limited to 12 participants.

## Geology at Woodend

**Sunday, March 1 (1:30-4 pm)**

**Leader: Joe Marx**

**Members \$24; nonmembers \$34**

Our Woodend Sanctuary sits firmly on the hard rock of Maryland's Piedmont province. The woods and lawns of today, however, hide evidence of a tumultuous history extending back half a billion years. We'll hike around the Sanctuary grounds and down onto the floodplain of Rock Creek, examining the topography and underlying bedrock to see how they bear witness to the long-term story. *Our walk, mostly uphill and downhill over rocky and muddy terrain, will be 1 to 1.5 miles in length.*

## Maryland's Marvelous Black Bears

**Thursday, March 5 (7-8:30 pm)**

**Leader: Kerry Wixted**

**Free, but registration required.**

**FREE**

Black bears have a storied history in Maryland and throughout our region. Once roaming across much of the state, Maryland's black bears almost disappeared before significantly rebounding. This talk will cover the biology, ecology, and history of these large land mammals, as well as adaptations that help black bears succeed. Our presenter, Wildlife Education and Outreach Specialist for the MD Department of Natural Resources, will also cover current management practices.

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Dec 1	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	16	Feb 13	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID	Y	28
Dec 6	12:30 pm	Nature Preschool Open House		12	Feb 17	10 am	Presidents' Day Hike on the Canal	Y	19
Dec 7	8 am	Huntley Meadows Free Birding Trip		29	Feb 19	10 am	Forest Bathing at Woodend	Y	19
"	"	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Feb 20	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID	Y	28
"	9 am	Winter in the Parks	Y	16	Feb 22	8 am	Riley's Lock Free Birding Trip		29
"	"	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13	Feb 23	8 am	Hughes Hollow Free Birding Trip		29
"	10 am	Wonder and Wander Preschool Event	Y	12	Feb 26	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay Free Birding Trip		29
"	1 pm	Georgetown Geology Loop	Y	16	"	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal	Y	17
Dec 8	8 am	Winter Waterfowl Prowl	Y	16	Feb 27	7 pm	Window into the World of Fungi		19
"	9:30 am	Blockhouse Point Conservation Park	Y	17	"	"	Aquatic Insect Family ID	Y	28
Dec 13	10 am	Winter Weeds	Y	17	Feb 28	10 am	Fridays at Carderock	Y	18
Dec 14	10 am	Fungal Microscopy for Teachers	Y	14	Feb 29	9 am	Knock, Knock		19
Dec 18	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay Free Birding Trip		29	Mar 1	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	16
Jan 4	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	16	"	1:30 pm	Geology at Woodend	Y	19
"	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	Mar 4	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow Free Birding Trip		29
"	"	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13	Mar 5	7 pm	Maryland's Marvelous Black Bears		19
Jan 5	9 am	Winter in the Parks	Y	16	Mar 7	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Jan 7	10 am	Tales and Trails begins	Y	12	"	"	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13
Jan 8	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal	Y	17	"	"	Walking the Winter Woods and Wetlands	Y	22
Jan 9	7:30 pm	Intro to the Natural History of Lichens	Y	17	"	9:30 am	Aquatic Insect ID Review & Quiz	Y	28
Jan 10	6:30 pm	New Year's Moonwalk	Y	17	"	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	Y	22
Jan 11	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		12	Mar 8	4 pm	Vanishing Vernal Pools	Y	22
"	10 am	Winter at Widewater	Y	17	Mar 10	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow Free Birding Trip		29
"	"	National Arboretum Free Birding Trip		29	"	6:30 pm	Aquatic Insect ID Review & Quiz		28
Jan 12	1:30 pm	Natural History of Galls	Y	17	Mar 11	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal	Y	17
Jan 14	6 pm	Land-Use Principles begins	Y	30	Mar 12	4:30 pm	Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow Free Birding Trip		29
Jan 15	10 am	Native Plant Gardening	Y	17	"	6:30 pm	Aquatic Insect ID Review & Quiz		28

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jan 15	6:45 pm	Human Ecology begins	Y	30	Mar 14	8 am	Patuxent River Park Free Birding Trip		29
"	7 pm	Winter Bird Life begins	Y	30	"	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
Jan 17	10 am	Fridays at Carderock	Y	18	Mar 19	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream	Y	28
Jan 18	2 pm	Winter Tree ID for Birders		18	"	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	22
Jan 19	9 am	Morning on a Monadnock	Y	18	Mar 20	10 am	Fridays at Carderock	Y	18
"	"	Piscataway Park Free Birding Trip		29	Mar 21	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend	Y	31
"	9:30 am	Winter Birds of the Coast	Y	18	"	"	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges		22
"	3 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	18	Mar 22	2 pm	Searching for Spring at Governor's Bridge	Y	22
Jan 22	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal	Y	17	Mar 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay Free Birding Trip		29
"	"	Summer Camp registration opens for members		13	"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal	Y	23
Jan 23	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology	Y	28	"	7 pm	Healthy Stream Biology	Y	28
"	"	Conservation Cafe	Y	9	Mar 26	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9
Jan 26	1 pm	Community Science Summit	Y	36	"	"	Warbler Warm-up	Y	23
Jan 29	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay Free Birding Trip		29	"	"	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	Y	23
Jan 30	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID	Y	28	Mar 28	7 am	Spring Early Birds	Y	23
Feb 1	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	16	"	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31
"	9 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		31	"	9:30 am	Field Workshop - Ten Mile Creek	Y	28
"	"	Weekend Walk in the Woods		13	"	full day	Spring in the Parks	Y	22
"	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		12	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">●</span> Special Event</li> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> Children and Family Program</li> <li><span style="color: purple;">●</span> Adult Program</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> Natural History Field Studies</li> <li><span style="color: teal;">●</span> Rust (VA) Activities and Events</li> </ul> <p>Y = Fee-based program</p> </div>				
"	10 am	Winter Tree Identification	Y	18					
Feb 2	9 am	Winter in the Parks	Y	16					
Feb 4	7 pm	Conservation Cafe	Y	9					
Feb 5	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal	Y	17					
Feb 6	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID	Y	28					
Feb 8	2 pm	Looking at Lichens	Y	19					
Feb 9	3:30 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	18					
Feb 13	6 pm	Green Cleaners for Teachers	Y	14					

## Walking the Winter Woods and Wetlands: Watkins Regional Park

**Saturday, March 7 (9 am-1 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

Winter is often called the *quiet* season, but there is still lots to look and listen for in the natural world despite the chilly temperatures. Our Senior Naturalist leads this walk to observe winter wildlife and plants, discuss their cold season survival strategies – and search for the earliest signs of spring! Our field trip visits the rich and close-by woodland and wetland habitats alongside the Little Patuxent River near Largo, MD.

## Woodcock Watch

**Saturday, March 7 (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.

## Vanishing Vernal Pools

**Sunday, March 8 (4-6:30 pm)**

**Leader: Cliff Fairweather**

**Members \$24; nonmembers \$34**

As hours of daylight lengthen and temperatures begin to rise, animals that have spent the winter in hibernation begin to stir. Among the earliest to be active are certain frogs and salamanders that use vernal or temporary pools for breeding. Unfortunately, the pools – and their breeders – are facing many threats. Our outdoor/indoor program will include an indoor introduction to vernal pool ecology, followed by an outdoor visit to vernal pool habitats in the Rock Creek bottomlands near our Woodend Sanctuary.



## Beginning Birding

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

**Saturday, March 21 (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 bird finding and identification. The goal of our field trip, which visits Black Hill and Little Bennett Regional Parks in upper Montgomery County, is to develop the ability to find, study, and identify birds in their natural environment.

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

**Saturday, March 21 (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. Participants can return to Tenley on a Wisconsin Avenue Metrobus and/or make plans for lunch in Georgetown.

## Searching for Spring at Governor’s Bridge Natural Area

**Sunday, March 22 (2-6:30 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

Although no excuse is needed, we’ll head outside today to welcome the official arrival of spring at the Governor’s Bridge Natural Area near Bowie, MD. We’ll explore up to a couple of miles on a meander through the meadow, woodland, and wetland habitats of this park adjacent to the Patuxent River. If conditions are right, we might spot our first butterfly of the season, our first raspy-voiced Eastern Phoebe of the season, and wet woods aglow with the blooms of Spicebush. We’ll stay out until the sun starts setting with the hope of hearing the voices of early-breeding frogs.

## Spring Saunters Along the Canal

**Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)**

**Section A: March 25 - Carderock**

**Section B: April 8 - Widewater**

**Section C: April 22 - Swain's Lock**

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

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

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Each walk members \$25; nonmembers \$35**

**Entire series \$113/\$158**

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

## Warbler Warm-up

**Thursday, March 26 (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 these birds 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.

## Early Spring Wildflower Hike

**Friday, March 27 (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.*

## Spring in the Parks

**A. Saturday, March 28 – Catoclin Mountain Park, MD**

**B. Sunday, April 26 – Calvert Cliffs, MD**

**C. Saturday, May 16 – Shenandoah National Park, VA**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason (Full day field trips)**

**Members \$36; nonmembers \$50; Entire series \$97/\$135**

Join our Senior Naturalist for these broad-based hikes in three of our region's state or federal parks. On each outing, we'll experience the dramatic seasonal changes in the natural world ignited by spring's longer hours of daylight and warming temperatures. Our first field trip visits the front edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains near Frederick, MD, where we'll hike 3-4 miles through rocky woodlands and wetlands. In April, we'll visit southern Maryland to explore coastal plain forests, marshland, and stream valley habitats on a 4-mile round trip hike to the Chesapeake Bay--and back. As the pace of spring change slows down here in the DMV, we'll head to higher elevations to the west and take a hike along the Appalachian Trail. Here spring will still be unfolding. On this moderately-strenuous hike in the northern section of Shenandoah National Park, we'll cover a total of around 4 miles, with fairly significant uphill/downhill hiking along the way. Participants should be in adequate physical condition for moving faster and farther than our usual naturalists' shuffle. *All hikes include some uphill/downhill (steepest on A & C) on natural surface trails. Expect hikes in the mountains (A & C) to cover terrain that will be rocky, uneven, and maybe muddy. Hike B trails may be muddy and/or slippery.*

## Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

**A. Saturday, March 28 – Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, DC (Paul Pisano)**

**B. Saturday, April 11 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Lisa Shannon & Rob Hilton)**

**C. Sunday, April 19 – Governor's Bridge Natural Area, MD (Mark England)**

**D. Saturday, May 2 – Riverbend Park, VA (Mike Bowen)**

**E. Saturday, May 9 – Lois Green Conservation Park, MD (Lisa Norwalk & Len Bisson)**

**F. Sunday, May 17 – Glover Archbold Park, DC (Cathy Stragar)**

**G. Sunday, May 24 – Rachel Carson Park, MD (Lisa Norwalk & Len Bisson)**

**Each walk members \$26; nonmembers \$36**

**Entire series \$164/\$227**

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 walking on natural surface trails and/or boardwalks which may be muddy, uneven, and/or slippery. Trips D, F and G will include some uphill/downhill on narrow and possibly rocky forest trails.*



## The Magic of Early Spring Woods

**Wednesday, 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 Blockhouse Point Park (MD) along the Potomac River. 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 as moderately difficult, with some uphill/downhill on natural surface trails. *Expect ground conditions that may be rocky and uneven, and possibly muddy/slippery.*

## Introduction to Wildflower ID

**Thursday, April 2 (7:30-9:30 pm)**

**Saturday, April 4 (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.*

## Bluebells and Budbreak at Boundary Bridge

**Saturday, April 4 (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 14th 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-leaved 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.

## Botanical Gems of Black Hill Regional Park

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

**Leader: Carole Bergmann**

**Members \$26; nonmembers \$36**

Named one of Montgomery County Park's Best Natural Areas, Black Hill Regional Park near Boyds, MD offers plant enthusiasts a number of special habitats to explore. Our forest ecologist leader will take us on a loop hike (between 2-3 miles) to visit some of them, as winter wanes and the great burst of spring change in the natural world becomes visible. We'll ID plants along the way, focusing on their seasonal aspects and ecological niches.

## A Year at Theodore Roosevelt Island

**A: Budbreak and Spring Wildflower Walk, Wednesday, April 8 (10 am-2 pm)**

**B: Summer Kayaking Trip with Stephanie Mason, Wednesday, July 22 (10 am-1:30 pm)**

**C: Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, November 4 (10 am-2 pm)**

**D: Late Autumn Tree Walk, Wednesday, December 2 (10 am-2 pm)**

**Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

**Each walk members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

**Entire series \$101/\$137**

Join Melanie Choukas-Bradley, author of the forthcoming *Finding Solace at Theodore Roosevelt Island* (August 2020), for a year-long exploration of Theodore Roosevelt Island, a 90-acre island in the Potomac that serves as a fitting memorial to our conservationist and naturalist 26th president—and Audubon Naturalist Society member! In the early spring, we'll witness the miracle of budbreak among the island's remarkable trees and see the floodplain forest come alive with Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, trout lilies, and trilliums. During summer, ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason will join us for a kayaking trip around the island, launching from Key Bridge Boathouse on the Georgetown waterfront. We'll paddle under the island's graceful silver maples and sycamores, get close to the summer wildflowers along the shore, and watch herons, egrets, wood ducks and—hopefully—the noisy kingfisher! As a bonus, we'll be treated to stunning views of the Lincoln Memorial and the "City of Trees" on the horizon. Our fall tree walks will take us deep into the swamp and tidal inlet along the boardwalk where willows, bald-cypresses and cattails frame views of the city behind it. Melanie will share details of the island's fascinating history during this year-long exploration and we'll witness the ebb and flow of the Potomac tides along with the changing seasons. *Fee for trip B does not include canoe or kayak rental.*

## Bluebells in the Bottomland

**Wednesday, April 15 (10 am-2 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

Nothing could be finer than a stroll through the bottomlands along the Potomac River this time of year. Spring beauties, golden ragwort and Virginia bluebells add new color to the forest floor, while overhead, trees such as maples, elms, and cottonwood unspool their flowers and leaves. Our route, which is mostly level but could be muddy, will follow the River Trail from Great Falls, MD. We will move upriver along the floodplain and then return along the C&O Canal towpath for a total hike of around 2.5 miles.

## Evening on the Canal

**Friday, April 17 (6:30-8:30 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$25; nonmembers \$35**

Early spring evenings can be alive with wildlife as you'll discover on this stroll from Pennyfield 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 18 (9 am-1 pm)**

**Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman**

**Free, but registration required.**

**FREE**

Tom Horton describes the annual Rock Creek migration of river herring in Bay Country: "No finer parade, or one more unappreciated, ever swung through this capital than the quicksilver legions of *Alosa pseudoharengus*, the common river herring." On our 23rd (!) annual herring walk, we hope to view the spawning run and discuss opportunities for restoring fish migration to Rock Creek. We will visit the fish ladder at Peirce Mill, then walk south on the hiker/biker path to the National Zoo. Meet at the Cleveland Park Metro Station. The walk will end at the Woodley Park/National Zoo/Adams Morgan Station.

## Hawks Aloft at Fort Smallwood

**Saturday, April 18 (9 am-3 pm)**

**Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson**

**Members \$32; nonmembers \$44**

Fort Smallwood Park, 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.

## Geology of Holmes Run Gorge

**Sunday, April 19 (12-4 pm)**

**Leader: Joe Marx**

**Members \$26; nonmembers \$36**

Alexandria sits atop a wedding cake of overlapping and intersecting terraces created by the Potomac River and its ancestral streams. Holmes Run, a relatively large upland watercourse in the northwestern quadrant of the city, has sliced through the layers down to the bedrock on which they all rest. We will walk about 3 miles on good trails and mostly level ground through the Holmes Run Gorge, examining outcrops of granite, schist and partially formed sedimentary rock. The discussion will focus on the ancient origins of the various rock types we see and on changes that have happened within the gorge in historic time. An added bonus will be a miniature magnolia bog! *Note: The pace set and distance covered on our geology hikes will be faster and farther than our usual naturalist's shuffle.*

## The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

**Sunday, April 19 (2-4:30 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$25; nonmembers \$35**

They're lovely to behold. But their beauty belies the scrappy, survival strategies of our region's short-lived spring wildflowers. Coping with cold temperatures, species such as Trout Lily and Dutchman's Breeches race to complete their flowering and fruiting cycles before the brief window of spring sunlight gets shut out by the unfolding forest canopy. Our Senior Naturalist will spill some of their secrets in a roughly 1.5-mile round trip walk between Violettes and Riley's Locks along the C&O Canal.

Look for details on other spring programs at [ANSHome.org/adults](https://anshome.org/adults)

## Earth Day Along the River

**Wednesday, April 22 (4-7:30 pm)**

**Leader: Stephanie Mason**

**Members \$28; nonmembers \$38**

## Butterfly Boot Camp: Azures and Elfins

**Thursday, April 23 (7:30-9:30 pm)**

**Saturday, April 25 (full day field trip)**

**Leader: Rick Borchelt**

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



# Feature Photos



Photo by Jonathan Higman

The leaves have fallen, but the fruit of this Common Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) may persist through the winter. The fruits here are not fully ripe and will not be ready for snacking, baking, or winemaking until a hard frost. The 28 or more species of mammals and birds that eat them also like to wait until they are ripe and sweet. Captured at Blue Mash Nature Trail, Montgomery County, MD.



Photo by Jim Graeter

White Oaks are one of the classic native hardwoods of the eastern U.S. Its leaves have rounded lobes and sinuses, and its annual acorns are a rich source of food for birds, gray squirrels, deer and others. The leaves and acorns pictured here come from a memorial White Oak planted on the U.S. Capitol grounds in 1949 by Speaker Sam Rayburn.



Photo by Patty O'Malley

Large milkweed bugs feast on milkweed seeds. Milkweed plants secrete toxins called cardiac glycosides that are poisonous to many animals, but not these two insects. The bright colors of the large milkweed bug are due to their diet and serve as a deterrent to predators which are wary of their bitter taste. This gorgeous plant was captured in the meadow of the ANS sanctuary.



Photo by Daniel Martinez

This natural sculpture was admired on a recent field trip for the NHFS Eastern Forest Ecosystems course to Watkins Regional Park near Largo, MD. The stair-stepping shelf fungi on the trunk of this dead tree are slowly recycling and returning it to the forest soil from which it sprouted. Nature never sleeps!

# Stream Science

For 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 biological stream monitoring and are taught by our Maryland Biological Stream Survey-certified instructor Cathy Wiss.

## Registration & Fee Information

Registration required: register online at [www.anshome.org/adults](http://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](mailto:cathy.wiss@anshome.org) for details.

**Interested in ANS' stream monitoring program?** The classes in the introductory series are recommended for all volunteer monitors and those interested in joining the program. To learn more about classes or becoming a volunteer, contact Cathy Wiss at [cathy.wiss@anshome.org](mailto:cathy.wiss@anshome.org).

## Introduction to Stream Science Series



### Classroom Session

#### Healthy Stream Biology

**Section A: Thursday, January 23 (7-9:30 pm)**

**Section B: Wednesday, March 25 (7-9:30 pm)**

(Sections A and B 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 28 (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.

## How to Read Your Stream



**Thursday, March 19 (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.

## Advanced Series: Aquatic Insect Family ID



**Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD (7-9:30 pm)**

**A: Beetles, Megaloptera & Water Bugs, Thursday, 1/30**

**B: Caddisflies & Aquatic Moths, Thursday, 2/6**

**C: Dragonflies, Damselflies & True Flies, Thursday, 2/13**

**D: Mayflies, Thursday, 2/20**

**E: Stoneflies & Review, Thursday, 2/27**

Learn how to identify aquatic insects to the taxonomic level of family through this series of five classes. Identification to family level greatly enhances our understanding of stream ecology and the power of our monitoring data. These classes are great for fly fishermen, citizen science program or team leaders, aquatic resource biologists, and anyone interested in monitoring and understanding stream health.

## Aquatic Insect ID Review & Quiz

**Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD (No fee)**

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

**Section B: Tuesday, March 10 (6:30-9 pm)**

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

(Sections A, B, and C cover the same material)

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



Photo by Peter Bross

# Free Birding Trips December-March

These free, volunteer-led walks offer birders a chance to explore new areas with other birding enthusiasts. Visit [ANSHome.org/Adults](http://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](http://www.anshome.org/adults).**

## DECEMBER

### Saturday, December 7 Huntley Meadows, Fairfax County, VA

Half day. Wintering waterfowl and other winter residents, Bald Eagles a possibility. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot by the Visitor's Center (3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22306). For more info, contact the leader, Dixie Sommers, at [dixiesommers@cs.com](mailto:dixiesommers@cs.com). (12-person limit).

### Wednesday, December 18 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).

## JANUARY

### Saturday, January 11 National Arboretum, Washington, DC

One-third day. Winter and resident songbirds and raptors. **Meet time/place:** 10 am at park entrance on R Street, just east of the intersection of R Street and Bladensburg Rd, NE. For more information, contact the leader, Paul Pisano, at [cheep@allealle.com](mailto:cheep@allealle.com).

### Sunday, January 19 Piscataway Park and Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's Co., MD

One-third day. Joint trip with Southern MD Audubon. Winter waterfowl and resident birds. Varied habitat of water, woods, farm fields, and edges provides a great variety of birds. **Meet time/place:** 9 am at entrance to Hard Bargain Farm (2301 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek, MD). For more info, contact the leader, Lynne Wheeler, at [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com) or text 301-751-8097. Bill Townsend, HBF Educator Associate, will co-lead (20 person limit).

### Wednesday, January 29 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 18 listing for details.

## FEBRUARY

### Saturday, February 22 Riley's Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery Co., MD

Half day. Winter residents, possible raptors and wintering ducks. Leaders will have scope for a view from the bridge at Riley's. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Riley's. For more information, contact the leaders, Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton, at [lpshannon@gmail.com](mailto:lpshannon@gmail.com).

### Sunday, February 23 Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD

One-third day. Mixed habitat of water, fields, and edges with good variety of wintering species—sparrows, raptors, and waterfowl. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot on Hughes Rd off River Rd. For more information, contact the leader, Jim Nelson, at [kingfishers2@verizon.net](mailto:kingfishers2@verizon.net) (12 person limit).

### Wednesday, February 26 Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 18 listing for details.

## MARCH

### Wednesday, March 4, Tuesday, March 10, and Thursday, March 12 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:** 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 – part of McKee Beshers WMA. Potential highlights there include early Tree Swallows, calling Pied-billed Grebes and Wood Ducks, and other 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 information, call the leader, Jim Green, at 301-742-0036 (no limit—all are welcome!).

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

Half day. Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. Waterfowl, as well as winter and early spring songbirds. Ospreys may be displaying. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at parking lot by park headquarters (16000 Croom Airport Rd.). Wear muddy conditions footgear. For more information, contact the leader, Mark England, at [mengland@canamcontractors.com](mailto:mengland@canamcontractors.com) (18-person limit).

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

See December 18 listing for details.



**Christmas Bird Counts**

Visit our Free Birding Trips webpage for a link to the full listing of local (and some not so local!) Christmas Bird Counts, including:

- Saturday, December 14 (Washington, DC)
- Sunday, December 15 (Seneca, MD & VA)
- Saturday, December 28 (Central Loudoun, VA & MD)
- Sunday, December 29 (Sugarloaf, MD)

Community Science



# 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.

## Land-Use Principles

**NATH8255E, 3 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: January 14-March 17**

**Field trip dates: February 1 and 22, March 7 (9 am-1 pm)**

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

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Katherine Nelson**

Land use planning decisions made in your community affect you every day: your decision to walk, drive or bike; the placement of parks and green space; your sense of place and connection to the past. Gain a working understanding of the legal and regulatory principles as well as the political forces at work in making land use decisions. Sustainable design and smart growth propose solutions to the tradeoffs between land and people, economic development and environmental protection. This course integrates aspects of ecosystems, conservation, and human ecology to explore how you can influence our existing and future built environment to fit into the natural environment. Field trips allow you to see how the principles and practices are being applied close to home. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.

## Human Ecology

**NATH 8280E, 3 CEUs**

**Class night and time: Wednesdays, 6:45-9:15 pm**

**Course meetings: January 15-March 4**

**Field trip dates: February 9 and 29 (9 am-2 pm)**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$365**

**Instructor: Gogi Kalka**

Although existing in habitats of their own design, humans cannot escape the biological and physical constraints on energy use, food production, population growth and interactions with other species. Applying ecological principles, students will examine our role in pressing environmental problems such as global climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation and learn to critically evaluate possible solutions. We will explore renewable energies, sustainable food systems and other inspiring global and local sustainability initiatives. Recommended prior course: Introduction to Ecology (NATH1160E), or equivalent. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.



## Winter Bird Life

**NATH7163E, 1.5 CEUs**

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

**Class meetings: January 15-February 5**

**Field trip dates: January 25 (Black Hill Regional Park) and February 2 (Blackwater NWR)**

**Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD**

**Tuition: \$269**

**Instructor: Gemma Radko**

Woodland birds are easy to sight in winter when leaves are off deciduous trees, and waterfowl are numerous and easy to locate. Learn about avian winter survival strategies, how to attract overwintering birds, where to look for birds in winter, and the essential connection between waterfowl and the Chesapeake Bay. Two field trips will provide opportunities to identify and study winter birds and their behavior. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be canceled.

## Community Science Summit

See page 36 for information on our second Community Science Summit at Woodend on Sunday, January 26.

# Winter Courses January-March



Stephanie Mason recognizes the 2019 NHFS Certificate of Achievement awardees at the ANS Annual Meeting on October 24. Pictured to the right of Stephanie Mason are Kara Laney and Viktor Simkovic. Congratulations!

Find details on Spring NHFS classes, starting in April, at [ANSHome.org/adults](http://ANSHome.org/adults)

## The Living Soil

Mondays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

## Biology for Naturalists

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Paula Wang

## Microbial Ecology

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Lynn Rust

## Spring Wildflower ID

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Sujata Roy

## Free Beginner's Bird Walks Saturdays, 8-9 am at Woodend New starting time in 2020: 9 a.m.

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](http://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.

New starting time in 2020: 9 a.m.

## Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

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

Registration may be completed:

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

### BOOKSHOP OPEN!

Our Naturalist 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.

## Support ANS – Monthly!

It's easy! Go to [ANSHome.org/Donate](http://ANSHome.org/Donate), or contact Loree Trilling at 301-652-9188 x35 or [loree.trilling@anshome.org](mailto:loree.trilling@anshome.org).





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

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

**WAITLIST  
OPEN**

**February 7-18, 2020**

**Optional Extension to February 21**

**Leaders: Stephanie Mason and Carlos “Charlie” Gomez**

This trip is full but call Carol at 301-652-199 x10 to be added to the waitlist.

## Mexico: Winter Roosts of the Monarch Butterflies

**WAITLIST  
OPEN**

**February 29-March 6, 2020**

**Optional pre-trip extension February 26-29**

**Leaders: Mark Garland & Local Guides**

This trip is full but call Carol at 301-652-199 x10 to be added to the waitlist.

## Central Arizona and the Grand Canyon

**May 5-14, 2020**

**Leader: Rob Gibbs**

Beginning in Phoenix, our ultimate destination is the Grand Canyon, but we will take our time getting there as we explore the tremendous diversity of Central Arizona along the way. As we head north out of Phoenix, we will visit one of the northern most areas of the Sonoran Desert supporting a healthy growth of desert species. We will spend several days exploring the diverse habitats of the Verde Valley and Red Rock Country of Sedona. When afternoons begin to heat up we will head for the cool higher elevations of Mingus Mountain or the Mogollon Rim of the Colorado plateau to explore the mixed evergreen forests and their bird life. As we travel north we'll visit the San Francisco Peaks, the highest point in the State. Then it's on to the Grand Canyon to experience the grandeur of what is often considered one of the 7 natural wonders of the world. We'll spend several days exploring its geology and wildlife before returning to Phoenix. Contact Carol Hayes at [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org) if you'd like to receive info on the trip when it's available.

### 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](http://travelexinsurance.com).

## Exploring Mount Rainier National Park

**July 25-August 1, 2020**

**Leaders: Mark Garland & Gary Mozel**

Explore the rich mountain ecosystems of Mt. Rainier, the highest peak in the Cascade Mountains of the Pacific Northwest. Back in 1899 Mt. Rainier became our country's third National Park, and in addition to the mighty volcanic peak, the park features flower-filled meadows, magnificent old-growth forests, spectacular waterfowl, and rich wildlife communities. Explore it all on this week-long excursion, with a four-night stay at the historic Paradise Lodge, located near tree line on Rainier's southern slope. We'll visit a few other nearby habitats on our way to and from the mountain. Contact Carol at [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x10 if you'd like to receive further information when it's available.



Photo by Mark S. Garland

### FUTURE DESTINATIONS

- **Guatemala** with David Farner & local guides: 10/2020
- **South Texas** with Mark England & Paul Pisano: 11/2020
- **Panama** with Terry Lawson Dunn & local guides: 01/2021
- **Costa Rica** with Stephanie Mason & local guides: 02/2021
- **Brazil's Pantanal** with Mark Garland & Xavier Muñoz: Summer 2021
- **Galapagos** with Stephanie Mason and local guides: 6/14-6/23/21

Please email [carol.hayes@anshome.org](mailto:carol.hayes@anshome.org) if you would like to receive information once the trips are confirmed.

## Volunteer Corner

### An occasional feature that highlights ANS volunteers

by Mitch Greene, Volunteer Coordinator

This quarter's column is about our Master Naturalists. You may have heard me mention them a time or two. ANS has trained 148 Maryland Master Naturalists since 2011. As of the drafting of this column, nearly two thirds of them recorded volunteer time at ANS. Think about what that means for a moment. Master Naturalists who trained with us eight years ago are still volunteering for us! Not only that, they are collectively responsible for more than half of the volunteer hours we logged in the fiscal year ending in August 2019. Not only do they keep coming back, they work hard when they're here!

It was my pleasure to welcome 18 new Master Naturalist interns onto our Volunteer Team this year. The 2019 class worked to advance projects from previous years, develop new products for us and make recommendations to improve processes at ANS. And, to my knowledge (it's my story!), members of this class are the first to answer "wings" to the exam question, "What physical adaptations help birds fly?"

I recently referred to all of our volunteers as a cluster of stars in the ANS galaxy that helps us to stand out in the conservation universe. Master Naturalists are a large part of why those stars shine so brightly.

Thank you, Master Naturalists! Welcome, class of 2019! And thanks to all of the volunteers in our galaxy. You accomplish tasks great and small. You help to achieve our mission goals and you represent us across the region. We all shine brighter because of you.

To learn more about the MD Master Naturalist Program, please visit our website. Applications for Fall 2020 will be accepted starting in March.



Photo by Ben Israel

In November ANS hosted a small volunteer appreciation reception. Volunteers came together for conversation, pastries, coffee and tea. We celebrated ANS and enjoyed one another's company.



Photo by Ben Israel

Instructor Sujata Roy leads the 2019 Master Naturalist class outdoors to learn about herbaceous plants.

## Congratulations Class of 2019 Master Naturalists!

Suzanna Banwell, Susan Bishop, Linda Conover, Sharon Crissinger, Bethany Drehman, Chris Fogg, Jim Graeter, Jonathan Higman, Jenny Lee, Betsy Mendelsohn, Geary Mizuno, Kris Nessler, Marla Nix, Patty O'Malley, Carolyn Peirce, Lars Petty Grove, Joe Saliunas, Jennifer Wright.

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.



# Thanks for Making 2019 “Extraordinary!”

## The 2019 Annual Meeting was a Nightlong Celebration

On October 24, we celebrated our 122nd anniversary with an abundance of good friends, good food and good news for the organization. It was a night full of spectacular highlights, the biggest being the news that we reached our *Nature for All* capital campaign fundraising goal!

- **President Scott Fosler** kicked off the program with his report that noted FY2019 was “extraordinary!” He said, “Years of serious planning and hard work are now coming to fruition in an exciting new era for Woodend and for ANS activities throughout the Greater Washington Region.” He pointed out that “The **Nature for All** campaign has inspired momentum that will continue to drive us toward achieving the goals of our Strategic Plan through 2022.”
- President Fosler also shared highlights from ANS programs and operations including:
  - \* The **Conservation** team expanded with three new, full-time Conservation Advocates in Maryland, DC and Virginia, ramping up our work to combat the Climate Crisis;
  - \* **Restoration** blew past our goals for tree and shrub planting and earned local and national media attention for our work to make nature accessible to all people;
  - \* **Youth Education** received the Sustainable Green Center Award from the Maryland Association of Outdoor and Environmental Education, the highest certification possible;
  - \* **Adult Education** programs and field trips hit their marks with 90% enrollment and our advocacy and water quality monitoring classes ran at or near capacity;
  - \* **Operations** made terrific strides with Woodend Sanctuary improvements including a shimmering new copper roof, accessible walkways and native landscaping;
  - \* Our **Naturalist Shop** attracted more than 150 new members and hosted book talks that welcomed diverse and curious crowds;
  - \* **Communications** reeled in a record number of media mentions and debuted *The Land of Woodend*, our widely acclaimed 50th anniversary documentary;
  - \* **Development** and **Membership** produced record-setting Bird-a-thon and Audubon After Dark revenue to support our mission work across the region;
  - \* Our **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)** efforts progressed beautifully with a sold-out Naturally Latinos Conference and an IDEA Task Force that created public definitions and measurable goals for ANS;
  - \* **ANS Volunteers** donated hours of impressive skills and talents equivalent to five full-time staff.
- **Treasurer Alice Ewen** reported that we raised more than \$1,175,000 in restricted contributions and grants for Conservation, Education and Restoration and an additional \$596,000 in unrestricted contributions, many of which came from our generous ANS members. We spent an amazing 88% of every dollar on mission work - more proof that ANS’s work on behalf of the environment is being recognized and rewarded.
- **Board Vice-President Megan Carroll** presented four candidates for election to the Board: **James Burris, Hughey Newsome, Abel Olivo, and Diane Wood. Carolyn Peirce, Nancy Pielemeier, and Larry Wiseman** stood for re-election. All candidates were voted in unanimously.
- **Executive Director Lisa Alexander** presented special recognition to the **Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT)** and welcomed CBT’s **Executive Director Jana Davis, Senior Program Officer Jeffrey Popp and Program Officer Bre’Anna Brooks**. CBT has provided an amazing \$650,000 in grant support to ANS since 2006, and has partnered with us across all mission areas.
- **Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason** introduced the Natural History Field Studies program, now in its 58th year, and new graduates **Kara Laney** and **Viktor Simkovic**. (See photo on page 31.)
- **Lisa Alexander** also presented special recognition to **ANS Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason** for 30 remarkable years of “Inspiring People to Love and Protect Nature” – in the refreshingly colorful, enthusiastic and inclusive way that is Stephanie’s hallmark of nature interpretation!
- **The Volunteer of the Year Award** was presented by **Volunteer Coordinator Mitch Greene** to **Natalie Dickter** who gave nearly 200 hours of her time to ANS in 2019. Natalie contributed to our mission work in so many ways including as a Family Walk in the Woods leader, a Woodend forest survey volunteer, a Summer Nature Camp registration helper, and as a School Naturalist Programs marketer and scheduler.
- The program closed with a toast to the Nature for All Leadership Team of **David Cottingham, Scott Fosler, Mike Gravitz, Jennifer Hinrichs, Liz Jones, Helen Patton, Gregg Petersen, Nancy Pielemeier, Kathy Rushing, Nancy Voit, Chris Wright and Nan McConnell of McConnell Consulting**, and our generous supporters, many of whom were in the audience. Lisa paid special tribute to **Sharon and Bob Buchanan**, who gave an amazing challenge grant of \$250,000 to Nature for All that propelled us across the finish line. She concluded with a heartfelt salute to **Jacky Wershvale**, our dedicated Development Director, who managed the campaign so well.

Special thanks to **Purple Onion** and **B. Lin Catering**, and **Ikona Photography** for donating their services to the event.

Learn more about our accomplishments in the FY19 Annual Report at [www.anshome.org/annual-reports/](http://www.anshome.org/annual-reports/).



2019 Volunteer of the Year Natalie Dickter.



We are most grateful to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for their support over the years.



Photo by Ikona Photography

The Nature for All Leadership Team crosses the finish line of raising \$4 million for the Nature for All capital campaign.

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# Restoration

Our hard-working volunteers and restoration staff planted over 500 native shrubs and trees at Woodend this summer and fall, including species like staghorn sumac, American sweetgum, and bitternut hickory. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation donated 300 dogwoods and viburnums, which were planted by members of the Rock Creek Conservation Corps in July. Ruppert Landscaping donated 30 large American hollies and white pines that were planted by the employees of Tower Companies during a service day this September. Many



additional woody plants were planted by our dedicated corps of Master Naturalists and other volunteers, without whom the restoration of our sanctuary would not be possible. Whether removing invasive species or monitoring habitat, volunteers help us attain our long-term goal of restoring biodiversity to Woodend. If you'd like to get involved in our restoration work, please contact [Bradley.Simpson@ANShome.org](mailto:Bradley.Simpson@ANShome.org).

In addition to the work accomplished by staff and volunteers, we contracted Snitzer Landscaping to improve the north entrance to the main building with an accessible flagstone walkway and new garden beds that extend the demonstration of native plant gardening that began when the Blair Garden was installed in 2010. Rather than removing the stump of a former champion basswood, we decided to place the trunk of a recently deceased maple next to it in order to showcase how deadwood can be creatively incorporated into landscaping to build soil health and provide wildlife habitat. We hope you'll come check out the new garden areas in their first year of evolution!

## Community Science Summit

**Sunday, January 26 (1-4 pm)**

**Woodend Nature Sanctuary**

**Featuring Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason (pictured right) speaking on "Monitoring Rocky Mountain Butterflies: The Challenges and the Thrills"**

**Cost: \$10 per person**

Hear ye, hear ye! Calling all ANS Community (Citizen) Scientists! Are you a Water Quality Monitor? Master Naturalist? Meadow Surveyor? Creek Critters enthusiast? Frog Watcher? Butterfly Tracker? Nest Box Monitor?

Please join us for ANS's Community Science Summit to share your projects and learn about others'. There will be presentations, volunteer opportunities, volunteer appreciation, and opportunities to chat and network. You'll find out about ANS community science programs and volunteer activities.

Contact [gregg.trilling@anshome.org](mailto:gregg.trilling@anshome.org) with a presentation idea you'd like to share. Your \$10 registration covers refreshments and snacks.

Register at [anshome.org/events](http://anshome.org/events).



## MEMORIAL AND TRIBUTE CONTRIBUTIONS August-October 2019

### IN HONOR OF:

#### **Lisa Alexander**

Gretchen Alexander

#### **Melanie Choukas-Bradley**

Cecily Nabors

#### **Stuart Gagnon**

Karen Lange

#### **Raymond & Norma Locke**

Maria Giovanni

#### **Kathy & Bob Rushing**

Susan Ryder

#### **Westbrook Elementary School**

Christine Dixon

#### **Janet Ziffer Wells**

Jo-Anne Barnard

### IN MEMORY OF:

#### **Yoli Del Buono**

Adria Zeldin

#### **Lou DeMouy**

Jane DeMouy

#### **Charlie L. Dorian**

Gretchen N. Schwartz

#### **Frederick M. Heider**

Paul Hillery

#### **Doug Hodgson**

Brenda & Tom Corbin

#### **Leslie E. Holden Sr.**

Susan Blaha

#### **Lynn Liotta**

Anne Crawley; Patty Friedman; Anita Fruman; Liz Jones; Stephanie Mason; Nieves Santos

#### **Michael McBride**

Lee McBride

#### **Mark Mitchell**

Betty Brody

#### **Rick Summerour**

Mary Summerour

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

The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Nationalist Society 75493** in the 2019 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



## Thank you to our Legacy Society Members

As we come to the end of 2019, we would like to recognize and thank all of our Legacy Society members – ANS supporters who have made a legacy to gift to ANS in their will - for their visionary support. Including a provision in your will for ANS makes a huge difference to our work. It could be a gift of a specific dollar amount or asset, or a percentage of your estate.



### **If one of your new year resolutions**

**includes making a will** and you need some advice about how to start your estate planning, attorney and former CPA Tom Donohue will be happy to provide a **free initial consultation session** to ANS members. Tom will meet with you at his Rockville office or here at Woodend. To set up a session with Tom, please contact Jacky Wershale at [jacky.wershale@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershale@anshome.org) or 301-652-9188 x31.

### **Legacy Gift to ANS**

**Dario G. Barozzi:** Dario Barozzi and his wife, Renee, joined ANS in the 1980s and were active members for many years. Longtime Washingtonians, both Dario and Renee (Renee passed away in 2009) loved the outdoors and enjoyed participating in many ANS trips and forays. We are grateful to both Dario and Renee for their generous bequest to ANS which will directly support our environmental education and conservation work.

### **In Remembrance**

With fondness and a heavy heart, Audubon Naturalist Society announces the passing of two longtime supporters and friends.

**Susannah Prindle:** Sue was a wonderful birder and all-round naturalist who participated in ANS programs and at her Riderwood community for decades; **John (Jack) Harris:** Jack, an avid outdoorsman, was active in ANS with his wife, Tucker, since the 1980s. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Prindle and Harris families.

## QUALIFIED DISTRIBUTION FROM AN IRA\*

As you consider your year-end giving, keep in mind that you can make a gift to ANS from your IRA. These gifts may help lower your adjusted gross income and count towards your Required Minimum Distribution.

All you do is instruct your IRA administrator to make a transfer from the IRA directly to Audubon Naturalist Society. Most administrators already have forms and procedures in place to make this transfer.

For more information about these gifts, go to: [www.anshome.org/ways-to-give](http://www.anshome.org/ways-to-give) or contact Jacky Wershale at [jacky.wershale@anshome.org](mailto:jacky.wershale@anshome.org).

\*ANS does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax advisors before engaging in any transaction.



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(301) 652-9188 ext. 23



Female cardinal by Jane Gamble

## 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.



## NOW, MORE THAN EVER...

Connecting people to nature and inspiring them to protect our precious environment is at the heart of everything we do. Because of your support, ANS is able to serve 28,000 people EVERY YEAR.

As you consider your year-end giving, please remember that every dollar you give to ANS will be leveraged for maximum impact here in our community. So, please give where you live and let's bring hope for the future to thousands of people. Whether you can send \$25, \$50, \$100 or even \$500, your gift will be put to immediate use in our environmental education and conservation work.

By providing life-changing experiences in nature, ANS presents new perspectives for thousands of children each year, opens the minds of politicians and local residents, and protects and restores habitats all across our region.

As we start to enjoy The Giving Season, please include ANS in your year-end giving – you can make a gift online at [anshome.org/give](http://anshome.org/give).



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The Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) is widely distributed and well known, but its numbers vary greatly from year to year. It likes woodland edges and meadows. In Europe, some adults hibernate, but the U.S.-Canada population seems to be fully migratory. Red Admirals fly to areas such as south Texas where their favorite host plant, stinging nettle, can be found all year. Under certain weather conditions, they may pass through an area by the thousands. Taken at Woodend in October by Jonathan Higman.