

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Naturalist Quarterly

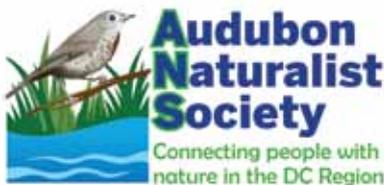
Winter 2017

ANSHOME.ORG

WOODEND 2065 VISION:

**HISTORIC WOODEND NATURE SANCTUARY IS WASHINGTON'S
OASIS OF SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY, NATURAL HABITATS**

– WELCOMING AND INSPIRING ALL PEOPLE TO ENJOY, LEARN
ABOUT AND PROTECT OUR SHARED ENVIRONMENT.



120 Year Anniversary - Leading with the Future

by Lisa Alexander

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.

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 AM-5 PM

STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 10 AM-5 PM

Saturday 9 AM-5 PM

Sunday 12-5 PM

GROUND'S HOURS

Dawn to dusk

ANS MEMBERSHIP

Student \$15

Individual \$50

Family \$65

Nature Steward \$100

Audubon Advocate \$200

Sanctuary Guardian \$500

Naturalists Council \$1,000

Preservationist \$1,000+

NATURALIST QUARTERLY is

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Conservation, VA 571-278-5535

Environmental Education x16

Membership x35

Publications, advertising x23

Rentals x38

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Rust Sanctuary 703-669-0000

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NATURALIST QUARTERLY

ANShome.org Winter 2017

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COVER The Woodend 2065 vision, taken from the 50-year Master Plan.

STAFF UPDATES: We say goodbye to **Kelli Holsendolph**, Director of Marketing and Communications, who begins a new career with the National Environmental Education Foundation. Kelli oversaw the ANS rebranding efforts and spearheaded the new ANS website, set to launch early next year. We welcome **Dupe Cole** as Senior Accountant and Benefits Manager. Dupe obtained her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Bowie State University and comes to us with over 12 years of accounting experience. We also are pleased to welcome **Serenella Linares** as our School Programs Manager. A native from the island of Puerto Rico, she has worked as a naturalist for Prince's Georges County Parks and Recreation, and is passionate about Environmental Education for Spanish Speakers, and fungi.

From the Director

As we grapple with the results of a momentous presidential election, I respond by recommitting myself and our organization to the important mission work of Audubon Naturalist Society. Now, more than ever before, we must dedicate ourselves to teaching children to love nature for a lifetime. We must work fiercely to conserve our precious local streams. We must fight every day for local policies that restore and protect the environment in the DC metro region. Our shared vision is to build a larger, more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it. We will settle for nothing less!



In the face of an uncertain political climate, now is the time for ANS and its members to dig deep to hold the line for the environment. We will need to find unprecedented reserves of generosity, energy, leadership and commitment. It will be up to ANS members to ensure that we stay focused and have the resources to continue our vital education programs and critical advocacy work.

We'll ring in the New Year with a celebration of Audubon Naturalist Society's 120th anniversary. While we'll spend some of next year reveling in ANS victories of the past – we must not rest on our laurels. Let's use this anniversary year to lead with our passion, commitment and vision for a sustainable future for the environment.

To that end, we will redouble our education efforts to build an environmental ethic in the next generation, so future champions of nature can say NO to weakening environmental protections. Starting today, we'll need more members, more volunteers, more partners and more funds to ensure that our local water quality stays pure, our streams are protected, and local native habitats, including ANS's own nature sanctuaries, are restored and preserved as models for the region and beacons of natural respite for people from all walks of life.

How can you help? Giving is the answer – giving your time, your energy, your hard earned money, so together, we can stand up for and protect the environment in turbulent times. Share the great news of all the ways ANS connects communities with nature. Invite a new person to come to one of our programs. Give a gift of an ANS membership. Now more than ever before, ANS needs your help to stand up to aggressors who seek to undermine protections for natural world. To find out more about how you can help ANS hold the line for the environment, please call or email me at (301)652-9188 x14 or lisa.alexander@anshome.org.

In the year ahead, ANS will strive to be a model of environmental leadership in the Washington, DC metro region, in our nation, and in our world. Today is an important day because today we have the opportunity to recommit ourselves to the outstanding mission work we do!

Staff Recommendations for the Holidays from the Naturalist Shop



I recommend The Spell of the Sensuous, by David Abram. It's a beautiful and thought-provoking book about the relationship of language and religion to nature, and the power of naming our surroundings—very compatible with a naturalist organization that teaches people how to identify and name the natural world.

Eliza Cava, Director of Conservation

I recommend Little Owl's Night by Divya Srinivasan for young children with a curiosity about nocturnal animals' nighttime adventures. The story takes place in a forest with Little Owl and his forest friends having a wonderful time enjoying the night. The illustrations and sweet story are a fast favorite of very young babies through preschool-aged children.



Stephanie Bozzo, Preschool Director



I recommend Winter World by Bernd Heinrich as the seasons are changing – a great book on winter adaptations of animals in Maine and beyond.

Gregg Trilling, Creek Critters Program Manager

A new pair of binoculars opens up new ways to appreciate nature and makes a wonderful gift. Audubon Naturalist Shop offers a great selection and gives expert advice. And our location means you can step outside and try them in a nature sanctuary. Nikon Monarch 5 or Monarch 7 series binoculars are a good choice.



Stephanie Mason, Senior Naturalist



We have many educational gifts in our Naturalist Shop. One really good one to consider is a bird song player called Identiflyer Lyric by For the Birds, Inc. It has a lyric mode to connect a song and picture with a memorable phrase. And expand your collection by adding more SongCards – one of them has frog calls, too!

Diane Lill, Director of Education

The Audubon Naturalist Shop 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.

120 Year Anniversary - Leading with the Future

by Lisa Alexander

The year 2017 marks the 120th anniversary of the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). In the face of current uncertainty about the future of environmental protections in our nation, it's instructive to look back at how ANS has survived and thrived as a forward-thinking environmental leader in our region, delivering twelve decades of conservation victories and environmental education for people of all ages.

Who knew that when Mrs. John Dewhurst Patten founded the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia in 1897, she would set the stage for an all-star line-up of conservation action past and present. Mrs. Patten and her compatriots, including George Miller Sternberg, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, joined the Audubon movement and led the effort to protect birds that were being killed for feathers to decorate women's fashion.

Just imagine the fight. At our first annual meeting in 1897, ANS

membership was 98. The lecture was "Woman as a Bird Enemy." The women who made up most of our membership wouldn't win the right to vote until 1920, 23 years in the future. Yet through their force of will, and by joining with other like-minded people, these early members advocated for and won enactment of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, protecting birds from being killed and collected throughout our nation.

For five decades, ANS had no formal headquarters. Members met at each other's homes, the Smithsonian, and even at the White House, where active member and father of our nation's conservation movement, Theodore Roosevelt, was in residence as President of the United States. Thought leaders packed our membership rolls and changed the face of nature education and conservation forever. Publication of ANS Board member Roger Tory Peterson's 1934 *Field Guide to the Birds* gave birth to the amateur

naturalist movement. We can thank Peterson, and his unique way of helping laypeople look at nature, for every field guide now available in our Audubon Naturalist Shop.

In 1953, our president, Irston R. Barnes, wrote an article to the *Washington Post* protesting a motor parkway project slated for the C&O Canal. In 1954, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, along with Barnes, challenged reporters to hike the C&O Canal to draw public attention to its recreational potential. It's rumored that only one reporter kept pace with Douglas and Barnes for the entire eight-day hike, but this local action helped save the C & O Canal as the treasured natural resource we all enjoy today. It was in 1960, shortly after the Canal was rescued from the bulldozer, that ANS changed its name to Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States to affirm that our focus was about ALL of nature and more than just birds.

Can you see a pattern here? By banding together, ANS members have affected environmental change – at the local and national level. Imagine our Board member, Rachel Carson, sick with cancer and vilified by the media, by industry and in front of Congress because of her 1962 groundbreaking, anti-pesticide treatise, *Silent Spring*. We like to think that despite being called names like 'peddler of fear' in the Senate chambers, Rachel Carson found solace and sanctuary among her friends and fellow members of ANS. Those members no doubt cheered Carson and her book, which is credited with not only stopping the use of DDT and saving the Bald Eagle, but also seen as the seminal work that ushered in a new environmental movement that secured passage of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act and led to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency.



NPS photo

One of many hikes led by Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and ANS President Irston R. Barnes to save the C&O Canal from becoming a motor parkway.

As our organization evolved, we continued on through world wars and the urbanization of our region. One landmark change came about in 1967 when ANS received a gift from the estate of Mrs. Marion Wells. Her historic home, Woodend, would become our first-ever physical headquarters. Five years later, George Whittell left \$250,000 to the Society for a field ecology center. That gift blossomed into a full-fledged environmental educational program and paid staff who worked with volunteers to deliver environmental education to the entire community.

“One of our flagship programs in the early years of Woodend was called the School Ecology Project. With volunteer support, we were able to reach city children, deliver nature experiences in their classrooms, and bring those children on field trips to our headquarters,” said Alison Pearce, Manager of Volunteer Programs at ANS. Doesn’t that sound familiar - using environmental education to connect schoolchildren to nature? Today, ANS’s GreenKids program enlists staff and volunteers to bring environmental education to 14,000 children each year in D.C., Maryland and Virginia public schools – free of charge! And ANS’s new Nature Bus is bringing city kids to ANS nature sanctuaries for multiple visits so they can truly connect to and fall in love with nature.

In 1975, when our membership had reached approximately 2,300, the ANS Conservation Committee led the charge to preserve Dyke Marsh in Virginia and launch the still-active Friends of Dyke Marsh group. In 1993, our members joined forces with historic preservationists and horse country land owners to keep Disney from creating a massive theme park in our pristine Piedmont region.

Today, as our nearly 10,000 members contemplate an election result that might seem devastating for the environment, we can reflect back on all the ways that our membership has coalesced to fight for nature. Our water quality monitoring program began in 1994, and today citizen scientists monitor 30 streams in the D.C. metro area. We used our excellent citizen data to help advocate

for protection of Ten Mile Creek in Montgomery County, MD., and in 2014 saved this last best creek in the county and the emergency drinking water supply for the region from devastating development threats.

How have we won victory time and again? We’ve won because ANS staff, members and volunteers testify at public hearings, attend meetings, rally people to meaningful environmental causes, teach people of all ages to treasure and protect the natural world, and donate their precious time and money. Because of member support, ANS has been able to accomplish an amazing conservation feat by protecting our nature sanctuaries in Chevy Chase, MD., and Leesburg, VA. Rather than cash in these valuable real estate assets, ANS has been able to preserve more than 100 acres that remain free and open to the public as nature sanctuaries and places of respite and oasis in our busy and contentious region.

What does the future hold for the Audubon Naturalist Society?

“Our future includes an emphasis on nature for everyone in the richly diverse D.C. region—that means clean streams in every neighborhood, environmental education for all, and conservation, restoration and preservation of healthy, beautiful and accessible nature spaces,” said ANS Conservation Director Eliza Cava.

And this includes the ANS headquarters. The Woodend Sanctuary’s 50-year master plan, completed in the Fall of 2016, provides a map to the future. We’ll increase the biodiversity at Woodend through forest, meadow, pond and stream restoration, create accessible pedestrian walkways and trails, install interpretative signs in multiple languages, dark-sky lighting and state-of-the art stormwater management. “We envision Woodend as Washington’s oasis of sustainable, natural, healthy habitats, welcoming and inspiring all people to enjoy, learn about, and protect our shared environment,” explained ANS Director of Education Diane Lill.

During our 2017 anniversary year, let’s take lessons from the past but lead with a vision for the future. As an organization, ANS knows how to do

the work that’s ahead. We can and must join together, build alliances, speak up, and take action for the environment. We can and must step up to do more locally when federal environmental funding falls off. ANS will make sure you know how you can help in our community, in our region and on the national stage. This is our history and this is our future – we have 120 years of experience working together to protect the natural world. Let’s get the job done. Let’s work together to continue the great legacy of Audubon Naturalist Society for generations to come.

Cathy Grubman contributed to this report.

Audubon Naturalist Society Mission

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

Audubon Naturalist Society Vision

The Audubon Naturalist Society seeks to create a larger and more diverse community of people who treasure the natural world and work to preserve it.

120th Anniversary Celebrations

We will be holding special programs throughout the year in honor of our 120th anniversary.

Kick-Off Event

Thursday, January 19
Looking Back – Looking Forward
 100th anniversary video and discussion.
 Shuttle available from Metro.

For more information email:
events@anshome.org.

Conservation

Testing the Waters with Audubon Naturalist Society

by Diane Lill

“WOW! I never realized there is so much life in a stream!” This has been the reaction of many high school students working with ANS this fall on the inaugural class of our new program called **Testing the Waters**. The magic of discovering the amazing variety of living things in their local creeks is one of the many new experiences that we are offering to students at Northwood, Montgomery Blair, and Einstein High Schools under the leadership of ANS Naturalists Gina Ghertner and Stephanie Ligouri.

With support from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, **Testing the Waters** is designed to provide highly motivated high school students in low income areas of Montgomery County with experiences in science and “getting their feet wet” learning about conservation careers, using water quality assessment as the focus. Students from the three Downcounty MCPS high schools learn first-hand about their local watersheds, how to assess the biological, physical, and chemical properties of water, and how to identify macroinvertebrates as biological indicators of water quality.

Testing the Waters integrates smartphone technology into the assessment process. Students use the Audubon Naturalist Society’s Creek Critters app to generate stream health report data based on the macroinvertebrates they identify. “We’ve used Creek Critters to engage more than 2,000 people in water quality issues and are inspired by those – like this group of



Creek Critters Manager, Gregg Trilling, mentoring students from Northwood High School. Photo by Gina Ghertner.

students – who so easily gravitate toward new technologies to evaluate problems and develop solutions,” observed Gregg Trilling, Creek Critters Program Manager.

Not only have students measured water quality in their local streams, including Northwest Branch, Rock Creek, and Sligo Creek, but they have also completed a field trip to Ten Mile Creek to compare water quality results to their highly urbanized neighborhoods. In addition, scientists representing local and state agencies involved in water quality issues have shared their insights with the students.

Students have also assessed stormwater runoff in their own schoolyards and studied the impacts of polluted runoff on their streams. On a recent rainy day, Northwood High School students collected samples of rainwater coming directly from the roof’s downspouts, parking lots, and dumpsters, and were able to compare those results to water collected from a rain garden on the school grounds that was planted as part of the RainScapes program several years ago. As a direct result of their testing, the students have decided to improve upon and expand the rain garden with support from ANS.

Additional funding from the Montgomery County Council will allow us to run the program again in the spring. In the long term, we hope to expand the program to become a year-long collaboration through which we can train and mentor students not only in water quality monitoring and environmental education, but also link students to summer jobs with ANS and other local conservation partners.



Students examining macroinvertebrates collected from Northwest Branch. Photo by Gina Ghertner.

Update on Water Quality Monitoring Data

Since the early 1990s, ANS' Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) program has been identifying organisms that live in our region's streams as indicators of water quality and stream health. Over time, the WQM program has evolved the way we store and share monitoring data several times. We are in the midst of that process again, with WQM Program Coordinator Cathy Wiss working closely with a database contractor and volunteer beta-testers to move the field monitoring sheets into a Salesforce-enabled system so that data can be entered from anywhere. Ultimately our goal is to make the website automatically update charts and results of each season's data so that you and your neighbors can track the health of your streams in real-time.

How do we use that data? Most recently, we used it to help save Ten Mile Creek after a long and hard-won fight. In addition, this spring, ANS produced a report on our Montgomery County sites that we shared with state and county officials. They incorporate data like ours into decisions about which streams are in need of pollution-reduction plans. You can see the full report on our website on the WQM page. Our next step will be to develop a similar report for our DC sites.

But the biggest news is what's coming next. The Environmental Protection Agency, through the Chesapeake Bay Program, is in the middle of organizing hundreds of citizen-science groups into a new Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC). The CMC will develop data quality standards, gather and sort citizen-science data, and make it available to government decision-makers, nonprofits, and scientists across the Chesapeake watershed. ANS is following the development of the CMC closely and participating in meetings to help shape its future, and we look forward to submitting our long record of data and making it available to others.

Pulte Subpoena Update

Our day in court has been scheduled. On Tuesday, December 13, ANS along with twelve other individuals and groups in the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition, will appear in federal court to protest the subpoena to produce documents for a lawsuit brought by Pulte Home Corporation against Montgomery County. Pulte is suing the County in federal court to recover damages from lost development rights in the Ten Mile Creek watershed.

ANS attorney Don Mitchell, from Washington's Arent Fox law firm, filed an objection to the subpoena on the following grounds:

- It violates the 1st amendment rights of those subpoenaed;
- The documents requested are not needed for the lawsuit;
- The document request is overbroad; and
- Producing the documents requested is burdensome.

We plan to win this legal fight and protect the right of citizens to engage in the democratic activity of participating in land use decision making in order to protect our environment.

Deer Fence, More Work Ahead

After a long hearing at the Montgomery County Board of Appeals on November 16, 2016, the Board of Appeals upheld its previous approval of a minor modification to our special exception for a ten foot chain deer fence link fence around Woodend. They were persuaded by the written and in-person testimony of the expert witnesses ANS rallied to the cause. It was telling to note that neighbor letters in favor and opposed remained equally divided. ANS is grateful to our pro bono attorney, Jody Kline of Miller, Miller and Canby, and to all of the experts, neighbors and members who wrote letters on our behalf, and to Lauren Wheeler, head of the George Washington University Sustainable Landscape Program, and Woodend neighbor Neil Hyman, who took their valuable time to come out in person to testify on our behalf.

ANS is pleased that the Board upheld the minor modification for the deer fence, but our work isn't finished yet. The Board of Appeals staff attorney will now sit down with our attorney and the head of the Department of Permitting Services to discuss our deer fence permit. The likely outcome will be that ANS will be required to obtain another approval from the Board of Appeals in the form of a Variance. A Variance is a bigger deal, and will take longer to procure. Happily, our attorney has already prepared the Variance for submission.

Through the Variance process, we will request that the Board of Appeals go beyond the minor modification it has already granted and give us the needed variances so that we can place deer fence on the property line (where the current fence exists). This Variance process will give our neighbors who oppose the fence another chance to make their objections stick. Anticipating that, the Board of Appeals has asked us to form a Community Liaison Group to try to work out a compromise with the neighbors that is concurrent with the Variance process.

How long will all of this take? With the holidays ahead, we may not get to a Variance hearing until the New Year. It is hard to know if we will be able to secure all the needed approvals before fawns are born this spring. ANS will not 'evict' the deer while they are having or caring for their young.

We can be proud that we won a reaffirmation of the Board of Appeals original approval of our minor modification, and that we did not take a step backward in our quest to bring biodiversity back to Woodend. ANS will keep forging ahead until our deer fence has surrounded Woodend and restoration of its beautiful habitats begins. ANS thanks its members (on both sides of the fence!) for working shoulder to shoulder with us to protect and restore Woodend's biodiversity for future generations.

If you live on a property that abuts, confronts or adjoins Woodend Sanctuary, or if you can see Woodend from your home, please volunteer to serve on the Community Liaison Group to help us keep up good relations with our neighbors as we seek to restore the forest, meadows, pond and stream at Woodend.

Children & Family Programs

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

Learning about "Tales and Trails"

by Cathy Grubman



One of the newest programs at the Audubon Naturalist Society is "Tales and Trails," a 45-minute class geared toward the littlest naturalist (ages 2-4). Held Tuesdays at 10 am at the Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase, Md., "Tales and Trails" combines nature-themed stories and songs with hikes around the property. Children are accompanied by their caregivers, who seem to be getting as much enjoyment as the kids.

"It's really fun!" said Leila Otis, mom to Grace. "This is the first time I've been to the Woodend Sanctuary and it's great. I am new to the area and was looking for an outdoor nursery school when I saw this class." Otis believes it's important to begin outdoor education at an early age.

Connecting kids with nature to encourage environmental stewardship is one of the main goals of the Audubon Naturalist Society as well.

Instructors Kylie Watson and Steven Pearce are both trained in environmental education for young children. Watson, ANS' Chesapeake Conservation Corps intern and a graduate of Salisbury University in environmental education, co-leads the class with Pearce, an ANS Naturalist who is pursuing his Master's degree at Towson University in environmental education.

"We begin the class reading a story and picking a theme," said Watson. "Today the topic is the transition of summer to fall; we are looking at fall colors, fall leaves and other natural objects." After the story and a song, the group headed out to the sanctuary trails. Woodend has many hiking trails within its 40-acre property, as well as meadows and a pond. "We go out rain or shine...or snow," Watson said. Participants are asked to dress for hiking, and once the class ends, they are encouraged to explore the grounds even further. The reading books used in the class are also available in the Audubon Naturalist Shop.

On the hike, Pearce brought along cutout shapes—square, star, heart, oval—and asked the children to identify leaves that matched. They looked for colors, too, which were indicated on a teaching card. Most of the kids were just learning about colors and shapes, and finding it in nature reinforced the lesson. They were not shy about answering questions or engaging with the teachers. Caregivers were urged to teach as well.

"We teach the lesson," said Pearce, "but we also encourage the caregivers to follow the lead of the child. If the child is interested in something, it's good to pursue it."

"Tales and Trails" meets Tuesdays, 10-10:45am, at the Woodend Mansion. Cost is \$75 per child (ages 2-4 with a caregiver). Winter session meets 12/6/16-2/14/17 (no class 12/27); and Spring session meets 3/14/17-5/23/17. (no class 4/11) For more information, go to anshome.org.

Summer Camp 2017 Important Dates

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Last day to become a member and be eligible for members-only registration

Late December, 2016

Catalog mailed to ANS members

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9 a.m.

Registration opens to ANS members who joined by 12/1

Thursday, February 2, 2017, 9 a.m.

Registration opens to nonmembers and to new members who joined after 12/1

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.



ANS EE photo



School's Out Nature Camp

On one-day holidays!

Woodend Nature Sanctuary

Friday, January 20 (K-9)

Friday, January 27 (K-9)

8:30 am-5:30 pm

Members \$85 per day

Nonmembers \$100 per day

Grades K-5:

Nature Adventures

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

Grades 6-9:

Eco-Team Service Learning

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

REGISTER ONLINE
[anshome.org/
schoolsoutcamp](http://anshome.org/schoolsoutcamp)

For More Information:

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

Cost:

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

Birthday Party Times:

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

Register:

anshome.org/birthday



Nature Birthday Parties!



SUMMER NATURE CAMP

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies

Capon Bridge, WV

SENIOR PROGRAM (Ages 11-15)

Two week sessions ♦ June/July/August

JUNIOR PROGRAM (Ages 8-10)

One week ♦ August

ADULT WEEKEND (Ages 21+)

One weekend ♦ July

SLIDESHOW PRESENTATIONS IN 2017

January 29, 1 pm

Audubon Naturalist Society ♦ Woodend

8940 Jones Mill Rd ♦ Chevy Chase, MD

February 4, Noon

Burgundy Farm School

3700 Burgundy Rd ♦ Alexandria, VA

55th Season



FOR MORE INFORMATION

michelem@burgundyfarm.org

burgundycenter.org

703-842-0470

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

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.

Audubon Nature Preschool



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

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

All Nature Preschool programs run September-May.

Contact Us

301-652-9188 x32

www.ANShome.org/preschool.

APPLY ONLINE

ANSHOME.ORG/PRESCHOOL

Drop-off Programs

Saplings

3-5 year olds

Mondays through Thursdays

AM program, 8:45-11:45 am

PM program, 12:45-3:15 pm

Oaks

4-5 year olds

Forest Kindergarten

Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am-2

pm; Fridays, 9 am-12 pm

Parent and Child Programs

Acorns

4 year olds and younger

All outdoor program

Thursdays, 9:30-11 am

Sibling discounts available

Sprouts

2-3 year olds

Activities on the trails & in the preschool

Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am

Open House Dates

* Friday, December 9, 2016 (1-2 pm)

* Saturday, December 10, 2016

(9:30-11 am)

* Saturday, January 28, 2017

(9:30-11 am)

* Saturday, February 11, 2017

(9:30 am-11 am)



ANS EE photo

School Field Trips

Explore nature with your students!

Winter Programs

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

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

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

Stone and Holt Weeks Scholarship

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

Holiday Eco Crafts

Saturday, December 3 (10-11am)

Fee: \$10 per child, adults free

Start your holiday celebrations off right with a family crafting program from 10-11am in the mansion. We will make crafts out of recycled and natural materials, drink hot cocoa, and enjoy a snack.

Space is limited so register early by emailing pam.oves@anshome.org. Please bring cash to the event. And feel free to come early and enjoy our Free Family Weekend Walk in the Woods from 9-10am.

Spring Break Camp

Grades K-9

April 10-April 14 (8:30 am-3 pm)

Extended camp from 3-5:30 pm

Members \$347; nonmembers \$432

Extended Camp \$115

Spend your spring break outdoors on our beautiful nature sanctuary. Campers will spend a week discovering salamander eggs, flower buds, wood frog calls, and other signs of spring. Outdoor play, crafts, songs, and stories will enhance our natural history learning. Grades 6-9 can earn 20 SSL hours. Register online.

Rust / Northern Virginia

Fresh Air Kids – Two Locations!

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

Rust Sanctuary, Leesburg ,VA
Fridays (10-11:30 am)

Winter: January 13-March 3, 2017
Spring: March 17-May 19, 2017

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

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

Algonkian Regional Park, Sterling, VA
Mondays (10-11 am)

Early Spring: March 13-April 24, 2017
Late Spring: May 1-June 12, 2017

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

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

Naturalist in the Classroom

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

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

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

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



RUST NATURE SANCTUARY

KIDS GROW BETTER OUTSIDE

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

Environmental Science Field Trips at Rust Nature Sanctuary

More time at Rust and less time on the bus! The Rust Nature Sanctuary is conveniently located off Route 7 in Leesburg. Closer to school = lower transportation costs! Students participate in **hands-on STEM activities that directly tie to Virginia Standards of Learning**. These include macroinvertebrate studies, water quality monitoring, watershed discussions, habitat exploration, adaptations, and life cycle experiences.

ANS can be your school's partner in Project Based Learning!

ANS partners closely with the LCPS Science Department for rich programming. Use this experience to begin or support your PBL! The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) has been delivering quality field trip programming at the Rust Nature Sanctuary for over 10 years. **Only qualified ANS Naturalists will run these programs**. Book your next field trip to Rust Nature Sanctuary and visit our 68 acres of habitats, including meadow, forest, pond and vernal pool. For more information email Susanne Ortmann at susanne.ortmann@anshome.org.



EE photo

Adult Programs

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

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR ADULT PROGRAMS

- Visit www.ANShome.org/adultnatureprograms and click on "Register Online."
- All adult program participants will be "New Users" the first time they register.
- All changes/cancellations/transfers must be handled through the EE office.
- If a class is full, you may waitlist for it for free online.
- Questions? Call Pam at 301-652-9188 x16 or email pam.oves@anshome.org.

Winter Birding at Black Hill

Section A: Saturday, December 3 (8:30-11 am) **FULL**

Section B: Sunday, January 8 (8:30-11 am)

Section C: Saturday, February 4 (8:30-11 am)

Section D: Sunday, March 5 (8:30-11 am)

Leader: Mark England

Each walk: members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$72/\$104

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.



Photo by Arlene Gmitter

Building Stones of Pennsylvania Avenue

Saturday, December 3 (1-4:30 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

The buildings and monuments along the Avenue of the Presidents are faced with a variety of granites, marbles, and sandstones. We will start at the Federal Triangle Metro station and walk about 3 miles, examining the exteriors of various structures between the White House and the Capitol. We will discuss the geology and place of origin of the building stones, as well as explore aspects of political, cultural, and economic history related to the choice and use of material. All portions of our route will be paved. *The pace set and distance covered on this geology field trip will be faster and farther than our usual "naturalist's shuffle."*

Birding the Shenandoah Valley

Sunday, December 4 (9 am-4 pm)

Leaders: Joe Coleman and Laura McGranaghan

Members (ANS & LWC) \$34; nonmembers \$48

Clarke County in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley is rich with excellent birding areas. Join two seasoned birders on a daylong search for hawks, sparrows, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds in the northeastern section of the Valley. We'll meet at the Snicker's Gap Hawkwatch in the Blue Ridge Mountains on the Loudoun/Clarke County border. From here we'll move along the Shenandoah River, and visit the Virginia State Arboretum and Blandy Farm. We'll wrap up the day with a return to Snicker's Gap Hawkwatch to see what's moving overhead. All levels of birders are welcome, and we will carpool/caravan from our meeting point to the return. Our field trip is cosponsored with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC).

Winter Birding Lecture Series

FREE

Thursdays (7-9 pm)

A: December 8 - Introduction to Winter Birding & Winter Bird Feeding

B: January 12 - How Birds Survive in the Wild in Winter

C: January 26 - Where Our Breeding Birds Go in the Winter

D: February 9 - Wintering Waterfowl and the Chesapeake Bay

Leader: Don Messersmith

Free, but registration required for each session.

World traveler, local ornithologist, and beloved instructor Don Messersmith has retired from the Natural History Field Studies program. But don't fret. He's still eager to share his knowledge, his experiences, and his sense of humor, so we've booked him for a lecture series on winter birding. Join him for one or more of these evenings at Woodend to learn more about winter bird ID and ecology.

Winter Weeds

Friday, December 9 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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.

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

Monthly walks December 3, January 7 and February 4. Weekly walks resume in March. Meet at the Audubon Naturalist Shop parking lot. Bring binoculars or use ours. Register at <https://ansevents.eventsmart.com>.

Christmas Bird Counts

Visit our Free Birding Trips webpage for a complete list of Christmas Bird Counts in the area.

Winter Hikes in the Mountains

A: Saturday, January 7 (full day hike) - Sugarloaf Mountain, MD (4-5.5 mi)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

B: Sunday, February 5 (full day hike) -Thompson Wildlife Management Area, VA (4-5 mi)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Hike A: Members \$34; nonmembers: \$48

Hike B: Members \$34; nonmembers: \$48

Take on two of your New Year's resolutions at once: spend more time exploring nature AND get more exercise by signing up for one or both of our hikes in the nearby mountains of our area. We'll search for over-wintering birds and other wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills. Hike A covers our nearest monadnock, where we'll scale the fairly steep ¼ mile trail to the summit (1,282 feet), then spend the rest of our time hiking the 5-mile loop Blue Trail. On Hike B, we'll visit the rocky woods of Thompson Wildlife Management Area, best known for its spring display of trillium, where we'll follow the Appalachian Trail for a stretch of our explorations. *Note: These hikes are designed to offer a natural history experience for persons who want to move farther and faster than the pace of most ANS field trips. We will stop to observe natural phenomena, but will keep a pace necessary to cover the distance stated. All of these hikes should be considered moderately strenuous, with both uphill and downhill hiking over rocky and uneven trails. Hike distance and exact location may be changed due to ground conditions and weather.*

Winter Walks Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: January 11 - Carderock

Section B: January 25 - Widewater

Section C: February 8 - Swain's Lock

Section D: March 8 - Great Falls, MD

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk: members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$72/\$100

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.

Love Our Adult Nature Outings?

Celebrate a special occasion by giving a friend or family member a customized ANS nature walk. For details, contact Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason at stephanie.mason@anshome.org.

New Year's Moonwalk

Saturday, January 14 (6:30-8:30 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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 Waterfowl Prowl

Sunday, January 15 (8 am-12:30 pm)

Leader: Mike Bowen

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Early 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.

Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners

Winter Walk: Wednesday, January 18 (10 am-Noon)

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Explore the Blair Native Plant Garden, located just outside the Sanctuary Shop, with our Senior Naturalist who helped develop the garden and its educational focus. Find out more about the values of gardening with native plant species, including: lower maintenance; more value to native birds, butterflies and other insects, including pollinators; reduced negative impact on local ecosystems, and more. We'll discuss native alternatives to popular non-native species such as English ivy, as well as resources for broadening one's knowledge and understanding of plants native to the mid-Atlantic. You're welcome to bring along a bag lunch to eat with the leader after the walks, which are scheduled to highlight seasonal aspects of the Garden.

See page 22 for information on a free "Watershed Advocacy and Stewardship Training" workshop at Woodend on Thursday, January 19 from 1-5 pm.

Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill

A: Sunday, January 22 (3-5:30 pm) **FULL**

B: Sunday, February 12 (3:30-6 pm) **FULL**

Leader: Mark England

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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.

Introduction to the Winter Night Sky

Thursday, January 26 (7:30-9:30 pm)

Leader: Richard Orr

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Can you spot Orion the hunter rising up just over the treetops? This alone is a sure sign that winter has come once again to the northern hemisphere. Being able to read the sky in winter can give you a unique sense of cosmological wonder since most of the brighter stars are, in fact, winter stars. While our leader is best-known for his expertise in dragonflies, he'll share his equally strong knowledge of astronomy in an indoor/outdoor presentation at our Woodend Sanctuary. We'll be introduced to sky guideposts and the dozen or so "winter" constellations. Assuming skies are clear, we'll bundle up to head outside and look for some of these wondrous celestial sights through a telescope.

Winter Tree ID for Birders

Saturday, January 28 (2:30-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Free, but registration required.

FULL

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.



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



Photo by Carole Bergmann



Walk Among the Giants

- A. Saturday, January 28 (9 am-1 pm)
- B. Saturday, April 15 (8 am-Noon)
- C. Sunday, July 23 (8 am-Noon)
- D. Sunday, October 22 (8 am-Noon)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Entire series \$86/\$122

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

Winter Tree Identification

Friday, February 3 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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, take a lunch break, and then move outside to use our new skills to identify many species of woody plants that grow on the Woodend grounds.

Night Gliders

Friday, February 3 (5:30-7 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

In many woodlands they outnumber our common gray squirrel, yet flying squirrels remain mysterious mammals seldom encountered by diurnal creatures, such as ourselves. Join us for a walk to observe their nocturnal activities, followed by a slide discussion of flying squirrels' natural history. The program will be conducted on our Woodend grounds where staff have hung flying squirrel nesting boxes, as well as a feeding platform.

Baby, It's Cold Outside

Saturday, February 11 (2-4:30 pm)

Leader: Cliff Fairweather

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Despite the chilly temperatures, nature is still out there waiting to be explored. Pull on a coat and join a naturalist for a winter walk at Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria, VA. Using the Park's woodlands and wetlands as our outdoor classroom, we'll discuss the basics of winter ecology and search for signs of the strategies organisms from grasses to grackles to gray tree frogs employ for winter survival.

Winter Weekend at Cape May

Saturday, February 11 (9 am) to Sunday, February 12 (4 pm)

Leader: Mark Garland

Members \$100; nonmembers \$140

Cape May is a magnet for bird life at all seasons, and mid-winter is no exception. Enjoy the peace and quiet of this picturesque seaside resort in winter and search for birds along the ocean coast, in field and forest, and through the extensive coastal salt and brackish marshes. The length of our walks will be determined by the weather: if it's bitter cold, we'll venture out on many short excursions with many warming breaks. If it's mild, we may undertake longer walks. Birds won't be the sole focus, as we'll discuss coastal habitats and conservation, and if other wildlife shows up we'll be sure to watch and enjoy. Saturday's activities will be restricted to Cape May proper, but on Sunday we plan to venture further north to search for other coastal wildlife, perhaps staying in Cape May County or, if unusual sightings await, heading as far as the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge and/or Barnegat Light. If it's clear and calm on Saturday evening, we'll try calling for owls under the full moon's light. Several motels and B&Bs remain open all winter in Cape May, many offering bargain rates.

Winter Birds of the Coast

Saturday, February 18 (9:30 am-5:30 pm)

Leaders: John Bjerke and Cyndie Loeper

Members \$34; nonmembers \$48

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.

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Dec 3	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13	Feb 12	3:30 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	14
"	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	12	Feb 14	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9	Feb 18	9:30 am	Winter Birds of the Coast	Y	15
"	10 am	Holiday Eco-Crafts	Y	10	Feb 19	8 am	Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
"	1 pm	Building Stones of PA Avenue	Y	12	Feb 20	10 am	Presidents' Day Hike on the Canal	Y	18
Dec 4	9 am	Birding the Shenandoah Valley	Y	12	Feb 21	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22
Dec 6	10 am	Tales and Trails winter session begins	Y	8	"	"	Understanding Evolution begins	Y	24
Dec 8	7 pm	Winter Birding Lecture Series		13	Feb 22	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
Dec 9	10 am	Winter Weeds	Y	13	Feb 25	8 am	Riley's Lock bird walk		23
"	1 pm	Nature Preschool Open House		10	"	10 am	Winter Tree Walk at Boundary Bridge	Y	18
Dec 10	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		10	Feb 26	9 am	Point Lookout Birding	Y	18
"	6:30 pm	ANS Holiday Party	Y	30	Feb 28	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22
Dec 11	8 am	Huntley Meadows bird walk		23	Mar 4	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13
Dec 21	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods	9	9
Jan 7	full day	Winter Hike in the Mountains	Y	13	"	1 pm	Winter Woods of Great Falls Park, VA	Y	18
"	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13	Mar 5	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	12
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9	Mar 8	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal - Great Falls	Y	13
Jan 8	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	12	"	4 pm	Riley's Lock/Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
Jan 9	6 pm	Winter Woody Plant ID begins	Y	24	Mar 9	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 11	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal - Carderock	Y	13	Mar 11	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13
Jan 12	7 pm	Winter Birding Lecture Series		13	"	"	Patuxent River Par! bird walk		23
Jan 13	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Rust begins	Y	11	"	9:30 am	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 14	6:30 pm	New Year's Moonwalk	Y	14	"	5:15 pm	Woodcock Watch	Y	18
Jan 15	8 am	Winter Waterfowl Prowl	Y	14	Mar 13	10 am	Fresh Air Kids at Algonkian begins	Y	11
Jan 18	10 am	Native Plant Gardening for Homeowners	Y	14	Mar 14	10 am	Tales and Trails spring session begins	Y	8
"	7 pm	Human Ecology begins	Y	24	"	4 pm	Riley's Lock/Hughes Hollow bird walk		23
"	"	Land-Use Principles begins	Y	25	"	6:30 pm	Macro ID Review & Quiz		22
Jan 19	1 pm	Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship		22	Mar 16	4 pm	Riley's Lock/Hughes Hollow bird walk		23

Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page	Date	Time	Activity	Fee	Page
Jan 19	6 pm	Geology begins	Y	25	Mar 16	7 pm	Window into the World of Fungi		19
Jan 20	8:30 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	9	"	"	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22
Jan 22	8 am	Piscataway Park bird walk		23	Mar 18	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13
"	3 pm	Winter Birding at Oaks Landfill	Y	14	"	9 am	Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges		19
Jan 24	7 pm	Intro to Water Quality Monitoring		22	Mar 19	1 pm	Intro to WOM field workshop		22
Jan 25	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23	Mar 23	7:30 pm	Beginning Birding	Y	19
"	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal - Widewater	Y	13	Mar 25	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13
Jan 26	7 pm	Winter Birding Lecture Series		13	Mar 26	8 am	Late Winter Birding in Prince William Cty	Y	19
"	7:30 pm	Intro to the Winter Night Sky	Y	14	"	1 pm	Early Spring Wildflower Hike	Y	19
Jan 27	8:30 am	School's Out Nature Camp	Y	9	Mar 28	7 pm	How to Read Your Stream		22
Jan 28	9 am	Walk Among the Giants	Y	15	Mar 29	7:30 am	Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay bird walk		23
"	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		10	"	10 am	Spring Saunter Along the Canal A	Y	19
"	2:30 pm	Winter Tree ID for Birders		14					
Jan 29	10 am	National Arboretum bird walk		23					
Jan 31	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22					
Feb 3	10 am	Winter Tree ID	Y	15					
"	5:30 pm	Night Gliders	Y	15					
Feb 4	8 am	Beginner Bird Walk at Woodend		13					
"	8:30 am	Winter Birding at Black Hill	Y	12					
"	9 am	Weekend Walk in the Woods		9					
Feb 5	full day	Winter Hike in the Mountains	Y	13					
Feb 7	7 pm	Aquatic Insect Family ID		22					
Feb 8	10 am	Winter Walk Along the Canal - Swain's	Y	13					
Feb 9	7 pm	Winter Birding Lecture Series		13					
Feb 11	9 am	Winter Weekend at Cape May	Y	15					
"	9:30 am	Nature Preschool Open House		10					
"	2 pm	Baby, It's Cold Outside	Y	15					

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

Y = Fee-based program

Presidents' Day Hike on the Canal: Swain's Lock to Pennyfield Lock

Monday, February 20 (10 am-2:30 pm)

Leader: Cathy Stragar

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

Got the day off? Join our half-day hike on the towpath along the C&O Canal from Swain's Lock to Pennyfield Lock. On this 3.5-mile stretch along the Potomac River, we'll hike through floodplain forests and wetlands. We'll keep our eyes and ears open for winter birds and other wildlife, while practicing our winter botany skills.

A Year in Rock Creek Park

A: Winter Tree Walk at Boundary Bridge

Saturday, February 25 (10 am-2 pm)

B: Spring Wildflower and Budbreak Walk at Boundary Bridge

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

C: Forest Bathing at Pinehurst Branch

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

D: Fall Nature Hike in Rock Creek Park

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

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Walks A and C: members \$28; nonmembers \$38

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

In 2016 the award-winning author of *A Year in Rock Creek Park* completed 10 years of her popular walks for ANS titled "A Year at Boundary Bridge." This year, Melanie Choukas-Bradley will branch out into other areas of Rock Creek Park with a new series of field trips throughout the year. During the winter tree walk, we will examine the twigs, buds, bark, and overall shapes of the park's floodplain and upland forest trees and shrubs as we look and listen for winter bird flocks and the always anticipated visit of a kingfisher. We will also look for the winter-flowering skunk cabbage. On the April walk, we will witness the annual floral miracle of Virginia bluebells, spring beauties and trout lilies in the floodplain forest, in addition to the leaves of tuliptree and American beech spilling from their buds. In May, we will have a change of pace and scene with a Shinrin-yoku or forest bathing walk in the Pinehurst Branch area of Rock Creek Park. Autumn will find us hiking the Western Ridge and Valley Trails during peak autumn foliage and fruiting season, stopping to study and admire trees along the route. Please join ANS as we visit familiar parts of Rock Creek Park and explore new ones! The Boundary Bridge Walks will cover a 2.5 mile loop on natural surface trails with moderate uphill and downhill. The Fall Hike will traverse 4-6 miles, with uphill and downhill on natural surface trails which may be rocky and uneven.

Point Lookout Birding

Sunday, February 26 (9 am-dusk)

Leaders: Hal Wierenga and Lynn Davidson

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

Maryland's Point Lookout State Park marks the junction of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake. Here the waters are broad and deep, and during the cold water months, they're home to loons, grebes, ducks, and other water birds. Join two birders who know this area well in an exploration of the Park's shores and its shrub and woodland interior, which harbors songbirds, woodpeckers, and specialties such as the Brown-headed Nuthatch. Depending on time and weather conditions, the explorations may also move to nearby St. George.

Winter Woods of Great Falls Park, VA

Saturday, March 4 (1-3:30 pm)

Leader: Liz Jones

Members: \$20; nonmembers \$28

Pull on a wool hat, thick socks, and cozy gloves to enjoy late winter's unobstructed views of the forested habitats along the Potomac River at Great Falls Park, VA. On our hike of up to 2 miles, we'll focus on the basics of winter woody plant ID, enjoying this popular Park in a quieter season. Trails will be natural surface, with some rocky, moderately-steep and possibly muddy stretches.

Woodcock Watch

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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





Window into the World of Fungi

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

Leader: Tovi Lehmann

Free, but registration required.

FREE

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

Urban Watershed Restoration Challenges - the Foundry Branch

Saturday, March 18 (9 am-1 pm)

Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman

Free, but registration required.

FREE

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

Beginning Birding

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

Saturday, March 25 (8 am-2 pm)

Leader: Mark England

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

Late Winter Birding in Prince William County

Sunday, March 26 (8 am-3 pm)

Leader: Paul Pisano

Members \$34; nonmembers \$46

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

Early Spring Wildflower Hike

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

Leader: Liz Jones

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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. The hike will traverse some uneven, rocky and likely muddy natural surface trails for roughly 2 miles.

Spring Saunters Along the Canal

Wednesdays (10 am-12:30 pm)

Section A: March 29 - Carderock

Section B: April 12 - Widewater

Section C: April 26 - Swain's Lock

Section D: May 10 - Riley's Lock

Section E: May 24 - Violettes Lock

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Each walk members \$20; nonmembers \$28

Entire series \$85/\$119

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.



FRIEND ANS ON FACEBOOK



FOLLOW ANS ON TWITTER: ANStweets

Budbreak at TR Island

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

Leader: Melanie Choukas-Bradley

Members: \$28; nonmembers: \$38

Join award-winning author and naturalist Melanie Choukas-Bradley for an early spring walk on Theodore Roosevelt Island, an 88-acre park in the middle of the Potomac River opposite the Kennedy Center. We will explore the park using a loop trail through the island's forests and along the boardwalk through its scenic swamp. During spring in the Washington area, when naturalists' eyes turn to our magical ephemerals and migrating birds, the miracle of "budbreak" among the woody plants is often overlooked. We will examine the buds of many species of trees and shrubs as they burst from their winter-protective scales to reveal their spring leaves and flowers. Expect a leisurely walk of 2-3 miles.

Introduction to Wildflower ID

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

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$46; nonmembers \$64

Lecture only members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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

Evening on the Canal

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

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$20; nonmembers \$28

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



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

Geology of Seneca Creek

Saturday, April 8 (10 am-2 pm)

Leader: Joe Marx

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

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

The Secret Lives of Spring Wildflowers

Sunday, April 9 (1-4 pm)

Leader: Stephanie Mason

Members \$24; nonmembers \$34

They're lovely to behold. But their beauty belies the scrappy, survival strategies of our region's short-lived spring wildflowers. Coping with cold temperatures, 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 2-mile round trip walk between Violettes and Riley's Locks along the C&O Canal.

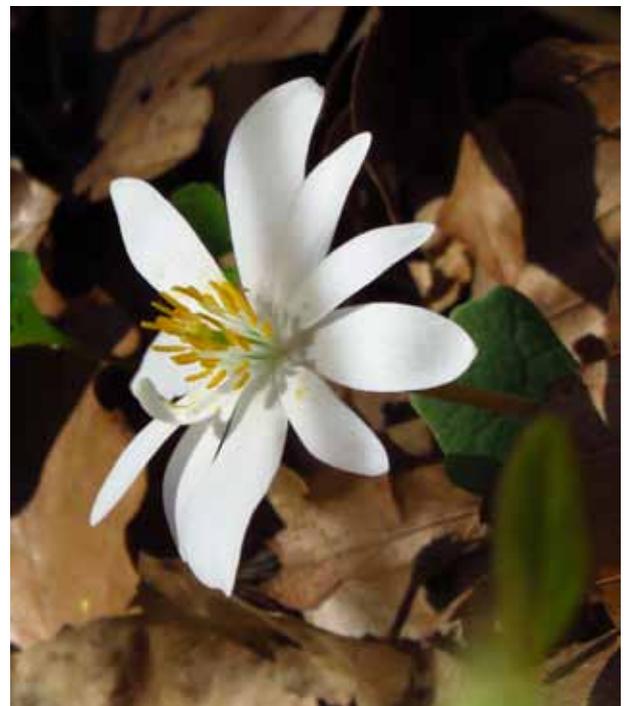


Photo by Martha Morris

River Herring Return to Rock Creek

FREE

Saturday, April 22 (9 am-1 pm)
Leaders: Neal Fitzpatrick and Bill Yeaman
Free, but registration required.

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

Spring Early Birds (7-10 am)

- A. Saturday, April 22 – Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge, MD (Mike Bowen)**
- B. Sunday, April 30 – Huntley Meadows, VA (Mark England)**
- C. Saturday, May 6 – Occoquan Bay Wildlife Refuge, VA (Mike Bowen)**
- D. Sunday, May 14 – Glover-Archbold Park, DC (John Bjerke)**
- E. Saturday, May 20 – Great Falls Park, MD (John Bjerke)**

Each walk members \$24; nonmembers \$34
Entire series \$102; nonmembers \$145

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

A Spring Morning on Roosevelt Island

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

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

Woodend's Master Naturalists

by Alison Pearce

On November 10, twenty new trainees graduated from the ANS Master Naturalist program. They spent two months learning about many aspects of Maryland's natural history. From birds to soils to amphibians to watershed stewardship, they heard directly from expert natural resource managers about current scientific understandings of organisms and environmental processes. Perhaps more importantly, they shared their own passionate curiosity about the natural world. This wonderful cohort includes teachers, lawyers, nurses, social workers, designers, librarians, and people from the business world. Now, they are all volunteer Master Naturalists, too.

Master Naturalists commit to serving at least 40 volunteer hours annually. ANS is lucky to have over 70 of these dedicated volunteers helping us in all of our mission areas. Master Naturalists often serve as teaching assistants in our education programs, and they are on the forefront of habitat restoration efforts at Woodend. This year, we have given our Master Naturalist community an exciting challenge. With the 50-year master plan for Woodend complete, it is time to take stock of current habitat conditions so that we can track our progress in the years to come.

As part of their training program, our new cohort of Master Naturalists designed six research projects to be conducted at Woodend over the course of 2017. Two research projects will address floral communities at Woodend by completing inventories of sample plots in wooded and meadow areas. Three projects will examine faunal taxa (breeding birds, insects, and amphibians) that depend on the food sources and habitat created by those plant communities. Finally, one research project will focus on documenting the condition of the ephemeral stream that runs through Woodend. Keep an eye out in future Naturalist Quarterlies for reports from these projects and opportunities to participate in the fun!



Vivian Tozaki discovers the world of macroinvertebrates during ANS Master Naturalist training. Photo by Gregg Peterson.

Water Quality Monitoring

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

Introduction to Water Quality Monitoring



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

Classroom Session

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Section A: Tuesday, January 24 (7-9:30 pm)

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

(Both Sections A & B cover the same material)

Fee \$15, waived for members and students earning SSL credit

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

Field Workshop

Sunday, March 19 (1-4 pm) site TBA

Fee \$15, waived for members and students earning SSL credit

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

Aquatic Insect Family ID



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

Section A: Tuesday, January 31 - Caddisflies

Section B: Tuesday, February 7 - Beetles & Megaloptera

Section C: Tuesday, February 14 - Dragonflies, Damselflies & True Flies

Section D: Tuesday, February 21 - Mayflies

Section E: Tuesday, February 28 - Stoneflies & Review

Fee \$15 for each session, waived for members and students earning SSL credit

Learn how to identify aquatic insects to the taxonomic level of family through this series of five classes. Identification to family level greatly enhances the power of our data and gives us a better reading of aquatic insect diversity. Registration required.

Macro ID Review & Quiz



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

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

Section B: Saturday, March 11 (9:30 am-12 pm)

Section C: Tuesday, March 14 (6:30-9 pm)

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

No fee

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

How to Read Your Stream



Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Tuesday, March 28 (7-9:30 pm)

Fee \$15, waived for members and students earning SSL credit

Learn about the influence of land uses on streams, stream character and dynamics, bank erosion, bar formation, substrate composition, different velocity-depth regimes, and the importance of riffles and riparian vegetation. This class is recommended for anyone who plans to participate in the ANS water quality monitoring program and is a good refresher on habitat assessment for experienced monitors. Registration required.

Watershed Advocacy & Stewardship Training Workshop

Thursday, January 19 (1-5 pm)

Woodend Sanctuary, Chevy Chase, MD

Leaders: Eliza Cava, Diane Cameron and Bruce Gilmore

Members: Free; nonmembers \$20

Is your community stream being threatened by development? Pollution a problem? Could your local official do something to help? Want to know what you can do at home to help the health of our streams and creeks? Join us for a fun and empowering afternoon at Woodend. Learn how you can raise your voice for clean water from our new Conservation Director, Eliza Cava, joining forces with stormwater experts Diane Cameron and Bruce Gilmore. Register online.

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, then go to Nature Activities & Education/Adults for complete directions, additional trips, and more information. Turn to page 12 for the list of fee-based, instructional classes and field trips for beginning to mid-level birders.

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 11

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.

Make reservation (12-person limit) with leader Stephen Jones at srjones1111@aol.com or 301-320-3518.

Wednesday December 21

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

Half day. Songbirds, waterfowl, eagles, and other raptors. **Meet time/place:** 7:30 am inside the refuge at central parking lot.

Make reservation (6-adult limit) with leader Jim Waggener, 703-567-3555.

JANUARY

Sunday, January 22

Piscataway Park and Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George's County

One-third day. Winter waterfowl and resident birds. Varied habitat of water, woods, farm fields, and edges provides for a great variety of birds. Joint trip with SoMDAudubon. **Meet time/place:** 8 am at Burger King in the Food Lion Shopping Center (15785 Livingston Rd, Accokeek, MD 20607). No facilities. **Make reservation** (20-person limit) with co-leader Mike Callahan, raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240-765-5192. Mike Patterson will co-lead.

Wednesday, January 25

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 21 listing for details.

Sunday, January 29

National Arboretum, Washington, DC

One-third day. Winter and resident songbirds, raptors. **Meet time/place:** 10 am at park entrance on R Street just east of the intersection of R Street and Bladensburg Rd, NE. Trip may be postponed if bad weather. Check with leader. **Make reservation** with leader Paul Pisano, 703-685-3790.

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 19

Hughes Hollow, Montgomery County, 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. **Make reservation** (15-person limit) with leader Jim Nelson, kingfishers2@verizon.net.

Wednesday, February 22

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 21 listing for details.

Saturday, February 25

Riley's Lock, C&O Canal, Montgomery County, 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 Lock. **Make reservation** with leaders Lisa Shannon and Rob Hilton, lpshannon@gmail.com.

MARCH

Wednesday, March 8, Tuesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 16

Riley's Lock and Hughes Hollow, Montgomery Co., MD
Informal late afternoon walks until dusk

Joint trip with Montgomery Bird Club. **Meet time/place:** Meet promptly at 4 pm at the end of Seneca Rd at Riley's Lock "on the bridge." We will be checking out the river, and the leader will not leave Riley's for Hughes Hollow until 5:30 pm. Highlights here will include waterfowl flying into roost. We will try for displaying woodcock if they are in the vicinity. Bring scope, flashlight and wear "muddy conditions" footwear. **Reservations not required**—all are welcome. For more info, call the leader Jim Green, 301-742-0036 (cell).

Saturday, March 11

Patuxent River Park, Jug Bay Natural Area, Prince George's Co, MD

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

Wednesday, March 29

Woodbridge/Occoquan Bay NWR, VA

See December 21 listing for details.



Christmas Bird Counts

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

- Saturday, December 17 (Washington, DC)
- Sunday, December 18 (Seneca, MD & VA)
- Tuesday, December 27 (Central Loudoun, VA)
- Monday, January 2 (Sugarloaf Mountain, MD)

Natural History Field Studies



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

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

Winter Woody Plant Identification

NATH7146E, 3 CEUs

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

Class meetings: January 9-March 20

Field Trip dates: January 21, February 4, and February 25

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

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Emily Ferguson

Winter unmasks nature, revealing our local woody plants in their most skeletal form. Students will learn to identify trees and shrubs by studying the "bare bones" of plants – branching structure, bark, buds, and leaf scars. Classroom lessons and three mandatory field trips will help students develop observational skills and use clues such as persistent and fallen fruits and leaves, aromatic twigs, and habitat to identify trees in the winter landscape. You must be able to attend all three field trips to successfully complete the class. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Understanding Evolution

NATH8201E, 1.5 CEUs

Class night and time: Tuesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: February 21-March 21

Field Trip date: March 4

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Tuition: \$259

Instructor: Jane Huff

Explore the theory of evolution, the "grand idea of natural science." Consider the biological bases for evolution, including genetics, natural selection, sexual selection, and survival strategies. Read Darwin's "The Origin of Species," review the intellectual background of evolution from Aristotle to Wallace, and survey the modern literature of evolution, including Mayr, Dawkins and E.O. Wilson. Topics are presented for the layperson and amateur naturalist, but a background in biology is helpful. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Human Ecology

NATH8280E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: January 18-March 22

Field Trip dates: February 18 and March 18

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 cancelled.



Senior Naturalist Stephanie Mason recognizes the 2016 awardees of the NHFS Certificate of Achievement at the ANS Annual Meeting. From left to right: Stephanie Mason, Linda Fuller, Danielle Brigida, Kate Maynor, Nancy Voit, and Maria Baranano.

Photo by Ikona Photography

Winter Courses January-March

Land-Use Principles

NATH8255E, 3 CEUs

Class night and time: Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Class meetings: January 18–March 22

Field Trip dates: February 4 and March 4

Location: Woodend Sanctuary, MD

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 class pulls together courses on 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 show how principles and practices are being applied close to home. There will be no class on Feb. 22. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Geology

NATH1125, 2 credits

Class night and time: Thursdays, 6-9 pm

Class meetings: January 19-March 23

Field Trip dates: February 25 and March 11

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

Tuition: \$365

Instructor: Joe Marx

We may not have the Rockies in our back yard, but we have the roots of mountains that were as high as the Alps. Although local earthquakes are rare now, this area broke in two twice and oceans flowed in. Central Atlantic geology tells a story as fascinating as any place on the planet. Course lectures introduce the landscapes, subsurface structures and geologic history of our region. Two field trips emphasize the recognition of local landforms and of the geological processes that created them. ACE College Credit Recommendation Service Reviewed. If minimum student enrollment is not reached by one week before the scheduled start date, the course may be cancelled.

Support ANS – Monthly!

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

Find details on Spring NHFS classes, starting in April, at ANShome.org/NHFS

The Living Soil

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

Instructor: Katherine Nelson

Biology for Naturalists

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Jane Huff

Biodiversity

Tuesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Joel Cohen

Botany for Naturalists

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Sujata Roy

NEW

Introduction to Ornithology

Wednesdays, Woodend Sanctuary, MD

Instructor: Gemma Radko

Registration Info for Natural History Field Studies Classes

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

Registration may be completed:

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

BOOKSHOP OPEN!

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

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY

Nature Travel

Discover a new world!

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

Costa Rica: A Trove of Tropical Birds—and More

FULL

February 14-26, 2017

Optional extension to March 1

Leaders: Stephanie Mason & Carlos "Charlie" Gomez

This trip is full but please call to add your name to the waiting list.

Spain: Spring Bird Migration Across the Strait of Gibraltar

April 17-25, 2017

Stephen Daly & Terry Lawson Dunn

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



Photo by Stephen Daly

Galapagos Islands: Darwin's Wild Classroom

FULL

June 23-July 2, 2017

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

This trip is full but please call to add your name to the waiting list.

Washington's Olympic Peninsula

July 7-July 15, 2017 **SECOND TRIP ADDED!**

August 12-20, 2017

Leaders: Mark Garland & Neal Fitzpatrick

The Olympic Peninsula, located in the northwestern corner of Washington state, is an area of remarkable natural beauty and biological diversity. Much of the land is protected as Olympic National Park, where leader Mark Garland worked as a Park Naturalist early in his career. Habitats range from the wild rocky coast of the Pacific Ocean to mountain meadows filled with summer wildflowers, located beneath a mix of rocky and snow-capped peaks. The mountain slopes and valleys are home to half a million acres of magnificent old growth forest, where many of the trees are over 200 feet tall and more than 8 feet in diameter. Come explore this diverse landscape at the peak of summer and learn about birds, butterflies, trees, wildflowers, marine life, and more. Detailed itinerary and costs will be available soon.

New Mexico: A Natural History Exploration

September 9-16, 2017

Leaders: Terry Lawson Dunn and David Krueper

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

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous in-kind donations to ANS' Annual Meeting:

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

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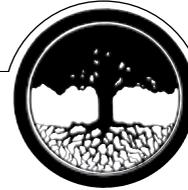
**Do you participate in the
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The easiest way to support ANS is to designate the **Audubon Nationalist Society 75493** in the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign under EarthShare Mid-Atlantic.



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2016 ANS ANNUAL MEETING

Woodend 2065: A Bold New Future

by Julie Bloss Kelsey, Master Naturalist Volunteer

Under a pastel sunset complete with swooping bats, over 150 people gathered at Woodend Sanctuary on the evening of October 20, 2016 for the Audubon Naturalist Society's Annual Meeting. Topics included a summary of achievements for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, awards, and the unveiling of a sweeping 50-year master plan for the Woodend property. Guests enjoyed a catered dinner and light refreshments donated by **Windows Catering Company**.

"This is our chance to give back to the members," said **Nora Kelly**, Camp Director.

Achievements for 2015-2016

Board President **Leslie Catherwood** opened the meeting by thanking the ANS Board of Directors, staff, and attendees, reminding everyone that with support, "You make the work that we do possible." Her excitement was palpable.

"This has been a hugely exciting year," beamed Catherwood as she highlighted ANS achievements, including:

– "We are now the proud owner of a 27-passenger nature bus that will enable us to bring more city kids into nature every year." Funding for the bus was made possible through a generous \$25,000 donation from Alan Meltzer with an additional \$20,000 donated by ANS members and supporters.

– The Chesapeake Bay Trust honored ANS with the Melanie Teems Award for the GreenKids program. Over 50 schools have reached state green school certification through this program, bringing nature to tens of thousands of elementary school students in our area.

– GreenKids has expanded the Salad Science Program into Fairfax County. In Montgomery County, Maryland public schools, "We've served our 10,000th bowl of student-grown salad."



Tanya Morgan (left) receives the Marcia Sward Environmental Education Award from Director of Education Diane Lill and David Sward.

– Since its launch in June 2015, the Creek Critters app has had more than 1500 users, helping introduce new people to citizen science as they explore the health of streams in their communities.

Scott Fosler, Treasurer, reported that ANS finished the fiscal year on sound financial footing and thanked ANS Comptroller, Lois Taylor, for doing an excellent job.

Awards

Diane Lill, Director of Education, presented the Marcia Sward Environmental Education Award to **Tanya Morgan** for her outstanding contributions in promoting environmental literacy in schools. Morgan is the Program Developer of the Reggio Inspired Center at Friendship Armstrong Elementary in Washington, DC.

Alison Pearce, Manager of Volunteer Programs, presented awards to three of the more than 500 ANS Volunteers. **Jenny Brown** and **Susanna Feder** were honored for their work in developing the ANS Children's Learning Garden, and **Paula Wang** was recognized for her enthusiastic and extensive service as a Volunteer Master Naturalist.

Stephanie Mason, Senior Naturalist, presented certificates of accomplishment to the Natural Field Studies Graduates for 2016 (see page 24).

Cecilia Clavet, **Carolyn Peirce**, **Nancy Pielemeier**, and **Larry Wiseman** joined the ANS Board of Directors as the Class of 2016. **Megan Carroll** and **Diane Hoffman** were re-elected to the Board.



Board President Leslie Catherwood addresses the crowd.

Woodend 2065: the 50-year Master Plan

The highlight of the Annual Meeting was the unveiling of the Woodend Master Plan. The Master Plan envisions Woodend "an oasis of sustainable, healthy and natural habitats, welcoming and inspiring all people to enjoy, learn about and protect our shared environment" said **Lisa Alexander**, Executive Director.

Alexander shared the sweeping and comprehensive vision of Woodend 2065. These 40 acres inside the beltway are open to the public, dawn to dusk, every day of the year. The goal of the master plan is to restore Woodend's habitats and watersheds and to improve the visitor experience for those who want to discovery and explore nature at ANS's historic headquarters.

The 165-page plan, prepared by Andropogon in consultation with the ANS Board, staff, members and volunteers, was funded by a generous donor. The process began with a discovery phase of site visits, archive reviews, interviews, and meetings in 2015. Stakeholder consensus confirmed that the number one priority for ANS is to support environmental education. Modeling stewardship and promoting biodiversity came through as top priorities as well.

To achieve these goals, ANS plans to restore habitat, update information and signage, improve and expand trails, and upgrade the buildings. The primary focus of Woodend 2065 is to improve the visitor experience by adding meaningful spaces for people to unplug and find sanctuary. This will be accomplished in two significant ways. First, uses of the property will be organized around three activity hubs: Education, Stewardship, and Administration & Events. These hubs will be anchored along the driveway to maximize conservation of natural space to the south and east. Human activity will be centered on the northern half of the property to allow for restoration of the forests, meadows, stream and pond at Woodend.

The master plan will be implemented in stages. ANS will reach out to members in the next few months to determine future priorities. Plans are currently underway to develop a nature play center near the Teale Center, and to erect a ten-foot deer fence around the property in order to begin much-needed restoration.

To view the Woodend 2016 Master Plan presentation, visit anshome.org/masterplan.

"I see the Woodend Master Plan as a gift from ANS and its members to the entire DC metro region. In our 120 year history, this is the first time we've undertaken a visionary plan of this scale. I hope this plan inspires you to give generously at year end to keep the momentum going. Your support makes all of our mission work possible," said Alexander. "We can do it! ANS members are the best people in the world."

If you have comments, questions, or wish to donate in support of ANS, please contact Lisa.Alexander@anshome.org.

ANS Annual Report 2016

The ANS Annual Report 2016 is available in both an online version and printable PDF format. Thanks to the continued support of its valued members, ANS made some significant accomplishments this year. Please find the 2016 Annual Report online at anshome.org.



Ikona Photography

Volunteer Manager Alison Pearce (right) recognizes Paula Wang as one of ANS's "Volunteers of the Year."



Ikona Photography

ANS members view the 2065 Woodend Master Plan vision.



Ikona Photography

Members of the 2065 Woodend Council were on hand for the unveiling of the Master Plan and to be recognized for their contributions to making the plan inclusive of all. Pictured from left: Tammy Shepherd, Margaret Hathaway, Byoung-Suk Kweon, Beth Ziebarth, Alfred C. Carr, Claire Schwadron, and Ambar Martinez Velazquez.



Congratulations to Noah Stitt for completing an ambitious Eagle Scout project at Woodend mansion. Noah and his team constructed built-in cases in the Naturalist Lounge/Library to safely and attractively display our Banks Bird Collection. Come by and take a look!



Montgomery County Councilmember Hans Riemer presented ANS with a proclamation recognizing ANS' school program and volunteer efforts to clean up streams. Eliza Cava and Diane Lill accepted the proclamation honoring "Montgomery Parks Stream and Park Clean Up Volunteers" for ANS.



Audubon Naturalist Birdseed Sale December 1-31

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Join us for a buffet dinner, live music, drinks and a silent auction at the ANS

Holiday Party

At Woodend Sanctuary
Saturday, December 10
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

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Katherine Benjamin, Jennifer Kawar, Dorothy Taylor

In memory of Tony White

John Bjerke & Carolyn Dowling; Paula White

In honor of Don Messersmith

Rebecca Cromwell

In honor of Naomi Miller

Cynthia Arkin

In honor of David Sward

Suzanne Hartley

IN REMEMBRANCE

Charlie Dorian, a pillar of the ANS Water Quality Monitoring Program, passed away recently after a short illness. He and his wife Gretchen Schwartz joined the program when it began in 1993. That year, Charlie became team leader at Countryside Tributary of Paint Branch. In 2007, he and Gretchen also became leaders of our site on the mainstem of Rock Creek upstream of Muncaster Mill Road. Since then, Charlie enthusiastically helped other teams monitor the North Branch of Rock Creek at Kengla Conference Center; Wildcat Branch; Sligo Creek; Dark Branch; and our Northwest Branch sites at Ednor Road, Sandy Spring, and Kemp Mill Road. All told, Charlie participated in a remarkable 128 monitoring visits, a record exceeded only by Gretchen. Charlie had a passion for nature and for sharing his discoveries with others. His stunning photographs of benthic macroinvertebrates form the core of the presentations used in the water quality monitoring classes. He will be missed.



Photo by Janice Browne

Rent Woodend Sanctuary
 beatriz.engel@anshome.org
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REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, MORE THAN EVER...

As we face a future more uncertain for the environmental movement than we could have ever anticipated, your year-end gift to ANS is more important than ever.

Remember: our strength is our **local focus** and the **multiplier effect** of many of our programs.

As you consider your year-end giving keep in mind that every dollar you give to ANS will be leveraged for maximum impact here in our community. Most of our programs are based on formal partnerships – with school districts, community groups, local universities and colleges – which massively increases their impact. Our volunteers contribute thousands of hours of work each year with ANS programs and in the community. Our coalition participation magnifies the voices of all those in the Washington region who care about the local environment.

Please support ANS with a special gift this year. You can give online at **anshome.org/give**.

Thank you – and let's all stand together so we can continue to make a difference right here in our communities.



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