

June 11 – THURSDAY – 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Flag Ponds, Calvert County

“NIGHTTIME HORSESHOE CRAB ADVENTURE AT FLAG PONDS”

Leader(s): Andy Brown and Melissa Boyle (melissaboyle3@gmail.com, 443-340-3035)

The horseshoe crab is one of nature’s miracles, and their eggs fuel the amazing migration of shorebirds! Want to see horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by moonlight? Join us for this unique chance at water’s edge. Bring flashlights, and wear comfortable walking shoes that can get wet. Meet at the gate to Flag Ponds. RSVP to Melissa (see above) by June 8th.

June 23 – TUESDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Park –

Jug Bay, Prince George’s County

“OSPREY BANDING TRIP”

Leader(s): Melissa Boyle (melissaboyle3@gmail.com, 443-340-3035) and Greg Kearns.

Join us for our annual Southern Maryland Audubon Society Osprey Banding Trip at Jug Bay. Do not hesitate to sign up for this event if you have never been lucky to experience this truly beautiful park and see Osprey chicks up close and personal. The parks naturalist, Greg Kearns, is one of the best in his field and provides a very entertaining, fact-filled and fun outing. **This opportunity is limited to 15 participants!** Youths Welcome (younger than 12 with adult). Cost is \$18/person, payable the day of the trip. RSVP to Melissa (see above) by June 19th.



Southern Maryland Audubon Society

P.O. Box 181 • Bryans Road, MD 20616

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the largest citizen group involved in nature study and natural resource conservation issues in the Southern Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s and southern Prince George’s. SMAS was founded in 1971 and was chartered by the National Audubon Society in 1972. SMAS is a non-profit organization incorporated in Maryland, with activities financed by a membership dues-sharing arrangement with NAS and by SMAS fund raising activities. It operates under the provisions of an approved constitution with business conducted by directors and officers elected by its members.

Monthly Meetings are held from September through June, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings are publicized in advance, open to the general public, and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of nature and conservation. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing if the program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

An **Annual Meeting** for election of officers is usually held on the first Sunday of June. The program included a potluck lunch, election, and a late afternoon bird walk. The location varies each year amongst the four counties. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

Field Trips are arranged for various weekends throughout the year and are led by experienced members. Special youth trips are also featured. If you are a new birder we strongly recommend you to join our trips as it is the best way to learn and lots of fun. You will discover the wonderful birding spots in Southern Maryland while learning more about our avian friends. A telephone and/or email address is listed with each leader. Most trips require guests to **RSVP**. Cancellation notification may be arranged directly from the leader or via the website.

Our **Raptor Conservation** is a primary effort of SMAS. The Raptor Conservation committee, aided by members, conducts research and enacts conservation activities in Southern Maryland. It is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program and currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please see our website or newsletter for adoption details and assist our cause.

2014-2015 OFFICERS

President, Michael Patterson 301-752-5763
Vice-President, Bob Lukinic 301-283-6317
Secretary, Lynne Wheeler 301-743-3236
Treasurer, Will Daniel 301-274-5756
Past President, Mike Callahan 240-465-5192

DIRECTORS

Jean Artes 240-274-9789
Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035
Andy Brown 443-624-3687
Margarita Rochow 240-577-1748

Open

Open

COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES
Carol Ghebelian 301-753-6754
CONSERVATION
Chair: Bob Lukinic 301-283-6317
EDUCATION
Chair: Michael Patterson 301-752-5763
FIELD TRIPS
Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035
FINANCE
Paula Willoughby 301-862-9631
RAPTOR CONSERVATION
Mike Callahan 240-765-5192
Adopt-a-Raptor
Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035
NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Tyler Bell 301-862-4623
PUBLICITY
Nancy Megias 240-377-6024
SOCIAL MEDIA
Nancy Megias 240-377-6024
PROGRAMS
Jean Artes 240-274-9789
MEMBERSHIP
Co-Chair: Carol Ghebelian 301-753-6754
Co-Chair: Lynne Wheeler 301-743-3236
HOSPITALITY
Gwen Brewer 410-741-9129
Habitat Stewardship–Open Fundraising–Open

FREE EVENTS

Southern Maryland Audubon Society



2015 SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

Find us on...



www.somdaudubon.org

You can become a member of SMAS automatically by joining the National Audubon Society (SMAS receives a fraction of NAS dues) or by joining as a Chapter-only member (SMAS retains all dues received). A National membership provides you six bi-monthly issues of the award winning Audubon magazine. Your membership helps support regional and statewide conservation issues and research studies, along with environmental education and outreach. Membership dues are as follows. Please check your preference and mail to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society, P.O. Box 181, Bryans Road, MD 20616.

- Chapter-Only (SMAS) Membership**
Make check payable to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society.
Individual/Family: 1 yr \$20 2 yr \$38 3 yr \$56 Lifetime \$500
Senior/Student: 1 yr \$15 2 yr \$28 3 yr \$42 Lifetime Sr. \$250
- National Audubon Society Membership**
Make check payable to: National Audubon Society.
Note Chapter Code #C9ZL000Z on check.
Introductory Offer: 1 yr \$20
Senior/Student: \$15

**Southern Maryland
Audubon Society**

**Field Trips, Programs,
Meetings & Events**

*All Southern Maryland Audubon Society program events
are open to members and the general public.*

April 1 – Wednesday – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County
"SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF BIRD MIGRATION"
Dr. Gwen Brewer, Science Program Manager, Natural
Heritage Program, Maryland DNR

The migration of birds has fascinated bird watchers and researchers alike for centuries. The amazing journeys of birds have been chronicled in song, poetry, and film, but how do they do it? This talk will summarize what we know about bird migration today, including exciting recent advances that have come about through the use of new technologies.

April 19 – SUNDAY – 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Indian Head area, Charles County
"INDIAN HEAD RAIL TRAIL
AND SMALLWOOD STATE PARK"

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Leader(s): Carol Ghebelian (301-753-6754,
ghebelian@comcast.net) and Lynne Wheeler
(301-743-3236, comstockel@aol.com)

The Indian Head Rail Trail is one of the best locations for Red-headed Woodpeckers in the state. We will also bird Smallwood State Park, Marbury, Maryland for early migrants. Come and see the Red-heads and help us find migrants who are heading north!! Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bryans Road (not Accokeek) Burger King, 3165 Marshall Hall Road, Bryans Road, Maryland 20616. RSVP to Carol or Lynne.

April 25 – SATURDAY – 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Ward Road, Calvert County
"SPRING BIRD LIST"

Leader: Karen Anderson, Master Naturalist

Join Karen as she explores Calvert County's newest park off of Ward Road in Dunkirk. The Natural Resources Division would like our help to compile the bird list for this exciting new 209-acre property at 10455 Ward Road, Dunkirk, Maryland. **RSVP** to Karen at r_otters1@msn.com

April 26 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FIELD TRIP

Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, St. Mary's County
"EAGLES, EARTH DAY, AND SOTTERLEY"

Leaders: David Moulton and Michael Patterson

Wrap up your Earth Day week exploring the bird life on this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Nesting Bald Eagles, early migrants, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can be found via Sotterley's extensive new trail system. From Route 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. **RSVP** at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

May 2 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

FIELD TRIP

**Elms Environmental Education Center,
St. Mary's County**

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, Maryland 20628
"BIRDING 101"

Leader(s): Dean Newman and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders!! **Youths Welcome!!** Are you tired of wondering and saying "What bird is that?" Do you want to get better at knowing what birds you are seeing? Birding 101 is the field trip for you! The more you walk the walk, the better you become! The location at the Elms Environmental Education Center offers a great habitat for birds. Dean and Margarita will point out helpful identification points such as: bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation. Learn about birding apps too. Call or email Dean to register: dean.newman@md.metrocast.net, dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.

May 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County
"THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPRING WILDFLOWERS"
Karyn Molines, Maryland Native Plant Society
Chapter Chair

After a long dark winter, the colorful and fragrant flowers carpeting the ground bring out primal feelings of rejuvenation and energy. The abundance of plant growth is an amazing ecological phenomenon that is highlighted by a profusion of flowers. Karyn will provide examples of the diversity of flowers typical of a southern Maryland forest, while pointing out the ecological importance of this seasonal explosion of plant growth. Note: Karyn will also be leading a Spring Wildflowers walk at Flag Ponds Nature Park on April 23rd hosted by the Calvert Nature Society. We recommend a spring "double hitter" by registering for her walk and then coming to our May 6th program. See their website at www.calvertparks.org, go to Calendar of Events for information and to register for the walk. The Audubon program is free and does not require registration.

May 9 – SATURDAY – All day

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties
Help is always appreciated from all: backyard birders, beginners, new members. This is a great way to learn! Data and information help save our birds. The county coordinators for you to contact are as follows:

Calvert: Sue Hamilton (410-586-1494,
Ldsquaw0@gmail.com)

Charles: George Jett (410-741-9129,
[gmjett@verizon.net](mailto:gjmjett@verizon.net))

Prince George's: Fred Fallon (301-249-1518,
fwfallon@earthlink.net)

St. Mary's: Patty Craig (301-872-5670,
walelu67@yahoo.com)



Barn Owls & Breakfast, Charles County

Youths especially welcome!

Mid-May to early June. The exact date to be determined, it all depends on the owls! Watch our Osprey newsletter and website for date and details.

Leader: Mike Callahan (240-765-5192,
raptorsrulemc@gmail.com)

A different kind of B&B! Come and enjoy breakfast before helping our Raptor Conservation Committee chair Mike check a Barn Owl nest box, and hopefully band nestling owls. This trip takes place on private property in southern Charles County. The location and directions will be given when you contact Mike to register and reserve your spot. This event fills up rapidly. There is a small fee involved to cover the cost of food. Please bring your own reusable plate, mug, and utensils.

June 7 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, Maryland 20636

Potluck Lunch 1:00 – 2:15
Welcome 2:15 – 2:30
Award Presentations 2:30 – 3:00
Bird Walk 3:00 – 4:00

We are very excited to be able to have our annual meeting at this beautiful historic St. Mary's County location. The meeting will be located at the open air Riverside Pavilion. Secluded and located on a bluff overlooking Sotterley Creek and the Patuxent River, the Pavilion is surrounded by majestic trees and water views. This will be one of our loveliest meeting venues and best bird walk due to the habitat and nature trails this location provides.

Directions: From Maryland Route 235 go north onto Maryland 245, Sotterley Road. Turn right onto Sotterley Lane. Follow signs to the Riverside Pavilion, parking is available.