

May 13 – SATURDAY – ALL DAY

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's Counties

Help is always needed and appreciated from all. This is a great way to learn and improve your bird identification skills! The county coordinators for you to contact are as follows:

CALVERT: Sherman Suter (401-586-1073, sjsuter29@verizon.net)
CHARLES: Lynne Wheeler (301-751-8097, somdaudubon@yahoo.com)
PRINCE GEORGE'S: Fred Fallon (401-286-8152, fwfallon@gmail.com)
ST. MARY'S: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623, tylerbell@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 4 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mount Aventine at Chapman State Park, Charles County

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

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

Bring your family, friends, and a favorite dish and join us at this beautiful setting overlooking the Potomac River. Chapman State Park is part of a 2254 acre site purchased in 1998 by the state of Maryland to save this treasure from development. Come and enjoy the miles of trails winding through woods and along marsh trails. This Important Bird Area offers fabulous flora and fauna. The 1840 Mount Aventine manor house will also be open, the other big treasure at this location.

June 23 – FRIDAY – 2:30-5:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Park – Jug Bay, Prince George's County
16000 Croom Airport Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

“OSPREY BANDING TRIP”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Greg Kearns

If you have never been lucky enough to experience this beautiful park and see Osprey chicks up close and personal do not hesitate now! Greg Kearns, park naturalist, is one of the best in his field and provides a very entertaining, fact-filled fun outing. Feel free to come early to have a picnic lunch. Ages: 12 to adult, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Maximum of 14 people. Cost: \$18/person, payable the day of, in cash. Pre-register with Lynne at 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com (email or text preferred).

June 30 – FRIDAY – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Flag Ponds, Calvert County
1525 Flag Ponds Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

“NIGHTTIME HORSESHOE CRAB ADVENTURE AT FLAG PONDS”

Leader: Andy Brown

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, wear comfortable walking shoes that can get wet. Meet at the gate to Flag Ponds. RSVP to Andy at 443-624-3687 or Brownaj@co.cal.md.us



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.

2016-2017 OFFICERS

President, Lynne Wheeler 301-743-3236
Secretary, Julie Daniel (240) 346-1931
Vice-President, Bob Lukinic 301-283-6317
Treasurer, Will Daniel (571) 237-1122
Past President, Michael Patterson (301) 752-5763

DIRECTORS

Michael Patterson (301) 752-5763
Tiffany Farrell (301) 609-1345
Margarita Rochow 240-577-1748
Julie Simpson 301-643-0317
Carole Schnitzler 301-266-3966
Lee Vines 301-752-4976

COMMITTEES

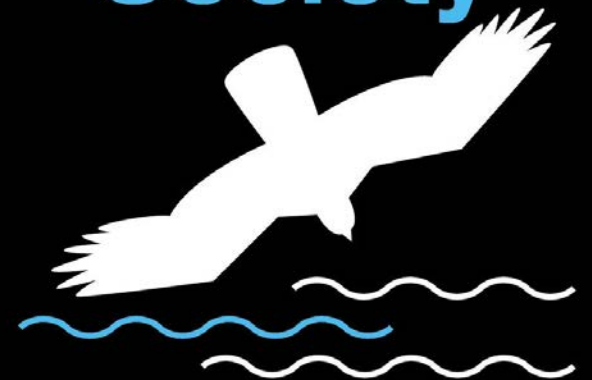
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Open
MEMBERSHIP
Chair: Lynne Wheeler
301-743-3236
HOSPITALITY
Robbi Ross
703-402-9121
Bird-Friendly Communities
SMAS Board of Directors
Fundraising-Open

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. Or you can visit our website and Join, Renew, or Donate via PayPal.

- Local Chapter-Only (SMAS) Membership**
Make check payable to: Southern Maryland Audubon Society.
Individual/Family: 1 yr \$20 2 yr \$35 3 yr \$45 Lifetime \$500
- National Audubon Society (NAS) Membership**
Make check payable to National Audubon Society.
Note Chapter Code #C9ZL000Z on check.
Introductory Offer: 1 year \$20

FREE EVENTS

Southern Maryland Audubon Society



2017 JAN-JUNE FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

Find us on Facebook &

www.somdaudubon.org

Southern Maryland
Audubon Society

Field Trips, Programs, Meetings & Events

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

January 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Mattawoman Middle School Media Center, Charles County
10145 Berry Road, Waldorf, MD 20603

**“AN EDUCATOR PRESENTS –MY HOG ISLAND, MAINE
ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE”**

PATRICE GRIBBLE-FETTER, *Park Naturalist,
Old Maryland Farm, Watkins Regional Park*

Every year the Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) gives a scholarship to teachers and environmental educators from our community to attend National Audubon’s Camp in Hog Island, Maine. The camp offers many programs to select from, adding new ones every year. Our SMAS scholarship recipients attend either *Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week* or *Field Ornithology*. Come and hear our 2016 scholarship winner share her once in a lifetime experience while attending the Field Ornithology program last June. This is a great time for any teachers who are considering applying for our 2017 scholarship to get in depth knowledge about this wonderful opportunity and SMAS contribution. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

January 20 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – YOUTHS WELCOME!!

Elms Environmental Center, St. Mary’s County
49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

“OWL PROWL AT THE ELMS”

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell and Margarita Rochow

Come “call out” the owls!! Owls are nocturnal, and therefore not easy to spot. A great Friday night family outing at The Elms. Dress appropriately for the weather, and avoid noisy clothing. This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapan Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet in the hunter’s dirt parking lot on the right 100 yards before the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at 410-610-5124, Bobboxwell@hotmail.com.

January 22 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Piscataway Park & Hard Bargain Farm, Prince George’s County
15785 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607 (Burger King)

“WINTER WATERFOWL AND RESIDENT BIRDS”

Leader(s): Mike Callahan and Michael Patterson

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. The varied habitat or water, woods, farm fields and edges provide for a great

variety of birds. Take Rt 210 (Indian Head Hwy) to Livingston Road. (south of Farmington Rd. and north of Rt 228). Take Livingston Road east and meet at the Burger King in the Weis Shopping Center (15785 Livingston Road, Accokeek, MD 20607). No facilities. No fee. Limit to 20 participants. RSVP to Mike Callahan at 240-765-5192 or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com.

January 28 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, Calvert County

“WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP”

Leader: Tyler Bell

Open fields and wooded areas provide good land birding and the river frontage close views of waterfowl. Loons, mergansers, seaducks and dabblers likely, often in great numbers. Call or email Tyler for directions to the meeting spot. RSVP to Tyler Bell at tylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

February 1 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Washington Square Community Center, Charles County
101 Kennedy Place, La Plata, MD 20646

**“WHAT KEEPS MARYLAND NATIVE PLANT
COMMUNITIES FUNCTIONING: NATIVE BEES”**

SAM DROEGE, *USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*

Current data shows there are at least 430 species of native bees in Maryland and DC. These numbers grow as more people explore and observe bees in the state. Like birds there are close ties to geography and plants communities...and unlike birds there are often 1:1 relationships with individual plant species. Sam will show pictures, tell stories, and present the many ways these species are different from honey bees and point out ways to increase their numbers in your yard and increase your ability to identify and watch bees. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

February 12 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County

Gate #1 Visitor Parking Lot

**“WINTER BIRDS AND TUNDRA SPECIALISTS
AT PAX RIVER AIRFIELD”**

Leader: Kyle Rambo

We are fortunate to have access to airfields that provide tundra like habitat. This trip will feature typical winter airfield birds such as Snow Buntings, Lapland Longspurs, Short-eared Owls, Horned Larks, Savannah Sparrows, and possible Wilson’s Snipe and Peregrine Falcon. Preregistration is required and open to U.S. citizens only. Trip is limited to 10 people. Must bring a photo I.D. Meet at Gate #1 Visitor Parking Lot. RSVP to Kyle at [301-757-0005](tel:301-757-0005), or kyle.rambo@navy.mil

February 17 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Private Farm, Charles County

“BARN OWL PROWL”

Leader: Mike Callahan

Join us on this night hike to look and listen for the rare, year round resident owl of Southern Maryland, the Barn Owl. The farm is owned by the newly-founded Wicomico Valley Foundation of

Southern Maryland. This is a great family outing! Bring a reusable mug for hot chocolate. The exact meeting location will be given at registration. Suggested donation of \$5.00 per person. RSVP to Mike at 240-765-5192, or raptorsrulemc@gmail.com

March 1 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Southern MD Higher Education Center, St. Mary’s County
44219 Airport Road, California, MD 20619

“MOM’S BIG YEAR”

NANCY MCALLISTER, *Biologist, Bird Banding Laboratory,
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center & Professor, Environmental
Science, University of Maryland Baltimore County*

Join Nancy McAllister on her journey through a ‘Mom’s Big Year’ of birding the U.S. Nancy traveled to hotspots from coast-to-coast to see as many birds as possible throughout 2016. A Big Year is no small feat for a mom managing all the duties that go along with three young children, a husband and two unexpected new jobs! Hear more about how Nancy juggled life, work, and family and used her birding adventures to heal, renew, and rediscover herself. Come and hear about how fueling *your* passion for nature can change your life too! Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

March 11 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary’s County

Park and Ride lot across from Lex Park Post Office, Tulagi Place
“LATE WINTER LAND BIRDS AND WATERFOWL”

Leader: Dean Newman

This trip has produced in the past Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and Shirt-eared Owls. Facilities are available. No fee. Meet at the Park and Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. Call or email Dean to register: dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.

April 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

St. Mary’s Soil Conservation District, St. Mary’s County
26737 Radio Station Way, Suite B, Leonardtown, MD 20650

“BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES “

SMAS Bird-Friendly Communities Committee

The human-dominated landscape no longer supports functioning ecosystems or provides healthy places for birds. Our rural landscape is also under threat by loss of forests and farms to development and modern farming practices. Where birds thrive, people prosper. Creating Bird-Friendly Communities is Audubon’s commitment to the sustainability of our urban, suburban, and rural places. We can restore and reconnect these places. We can reestablish the ecological functions of our cities and towns. We can provide essential, safe habitat for birds. Come and learn about the importance of landscaping with native plants, avian architecture for raptors and Osprey, and other threats that exist and how we can help. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com

April 22 – SATURDAY – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

EARTH DAY SPECIAL EVENT – Charles County

Mallows Bay Park, Charles County

1440 Wilson Landing Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662

“Walk and Learn about the Birds of Mallow Bay”

Please join us for bird walks and an informative display about birds and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society at “Discover Quest: A World War I Commemoration” hosted by Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism at Mallows Bay Park. See the county website at www.charlescountymd.gov for full information regarding the event. This is a great place to celebrate Earth Day!! Walks scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com.

April 29 – SATURDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Indian Head area, Charles County

“CHAPMAN STATE PARK AND

INDIAN HEAD RAIL TRAIL”

Mount Aventine at Chapman State Park

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

The Indian Head Rail Trail is one of the best locations for Red-headed Woodpeckers in the state. We will also bird one of Audubon’s Important Bird Areas, Chapman State Park, home to many of Maryland’s coastal plain rare natural heritage resources. Come and see the Red-heads on the trail and help us find migrants and spring ephemerals at the park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance to Mount Aventine –Chapman State Park, Indian Head, Marbury, MD. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 or comstockel@aol.com

May 3 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Historic Port Tobacco Courthouse, Charles County, MD

8430 Commerce Street, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES “

SMAS Bird-Friendly Communities Committee

The human-dominated landscape no longer supports functioning ecosystems or provides healthy places for birds. Our rural landscape is also under threat by loss of forests and farms to development and modern farming practices. Where birds thrive, people prosper. Creating Bird-Friendly Communities is Audubon’s commitment to the sustainability of our urban, suburban, and rural places. We can restore and reconnect these places. We can reestablish the ecological functions of our cities and towns. We can provide essential, safe habitat for birds. Come and learn about the importance of landscaping with native plants, avian architecture for raptors and Osprey, and other threats that exist and how we can help. Light refreshments and mingling starts at 7 p.m. Public invited. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler, 301-751-8097 or somdaudubon@yahoo.com