

June 5 – SUNDAY – 1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Kings Landing Park, Calvert County**

3255 Kings Landing Road, Huntingtown, MD 20639

**Potluck Lunch** . . . . . 1:00 – 2:15 p.m.

**Welcome** . . . . . 2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

**Award Presentations** . . . . . 2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

**Bird Walk** . . . . . 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Come and join us appreciate this parks 265 acres of natural area on the Patuxent River including 4,000 feet of river shoreline and 50 acres of marshland. Our picnic meeting will be held at a picnic pavilion, enabling us to immerse ourselves easily into the parks wonderful nature filled environment. Directions: From Rt 4 at Huntingtown turn onto Old Town Road (Route 524). Proceed to Bowen’s Grocery Store and turn on Huntingtown Road (Route 521). At the 4-way stop intersection, continue straight, and you will be on Kings Landing Road. The road dead ends at the park.

June 12 – SUNDAY – 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(s): Andy Brown and Melissa Boyle

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 Melissa at 443-340-3035 or [melissaboyle3@gmail.com](mailto:melissaboyle3@gmail.com) by June 6.

June 17 – FRIDAY – 1:00 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): Melissa Acuti 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 Melissa at 443-340-3035 or [melissaboyle3@gmail.com](mailto:melissaboyle3@gmail.com) (email preferred).

**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.

**2015-2016 OFFICERS**

**President, Michael Patterson**

301-752-5763

**Secretary, Lynne Wheeler**

301-743-3236

**Vice-President, Bob Lukinic**

301-283-6317

**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

**Carole Schnitzler**

301-266-3966

*Open*

**COMMITTEES**

**ARCHIVES**

Lynne Wheeler

301-743-3236

**CONSERVATION**

Chair: Bob Lukinic

301-283-6317

**EDUCATION**

Chair: Nicole Patterson

301-752-2923

**FIELD TRIPS**

David Moulton

240-278-4473

**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 Megas

240-377-6024

**SMAS SPECIAL ADVISOR**

Carol Ghebelian

301-753-6754

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Nancy Megas

240-377-6024

**PROGRAMS**

*Open*

**MEMBERSHIP**

Chair: Lynne Wheeler

301-743-3236

**HOSPITALITY**

Robbi Ross

703-402-9121

**Habitat Stewardship-Open**

**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.

**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

**National Audubon Society Membership**

Make check payable to: National Audubon Society.

Note Chapter Code #C9ZL000Z on check.

Introductory Offer:  1 yr \$20

**FREE EVENTS**

**Southern Maryland Audubon Society**



**2016 SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS**

Find us on...



[www.somdaudubon.org](http://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.*

**April 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

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

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

**“BENEFICIAL BATS IN YOUR BELFRY –  
EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BATS”**

KERRY WIXTED, *Biologist II,*

*Maryland DNR Wildlife and Heritage Service*

Bats are extremely beneficial yet poorly understood creatures. Learn about the benefits of bats, amazing bats around the world as well as those that call Maryland home, and ways to help our declining bat populations. Come early and hang out (bat joke) with us at 7 p.m. for refreshments.

**April 10 – SUNDAY – 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**FIELD TRIP**

**Mount Aventine at Chapman State Park**

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

**“SPRING INTO BIRDING:  
BIRD IDENTIFICATION 101”**

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler, Nancy Megas,  
and Carole Schnitzler

Bring your eyes and ears and finally accomplish what you keep on saying but never do – learn how to identify the birds you see and hear! Come to Chapman State Park. This officially designated Important Bird Area offers biodiversity of great significance and interest. We will have a 30 minute bird identification discussion and then a three hour trail walk looking for spring migrants and wildflowers. Binoculars will be on hand. This event is being sponsored by the Charles County Garden Club who is kindly donating Birding Field Guides to the Friends of Chapman State Park Birding Kits. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 or [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com).

**April 17 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**FIELD TRIP**

Indian Head area, Charles County

**“INDIAN HEAD RAIL TRAIL  
AND SMALLWOOD STATE PARK”**

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 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 8:00 a.m. at the entrance to Smallwood State Park, Marbury, Maryland. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. RSVP to Lynne at 301-751-8097 or [comstockel@aol.com](mailto:comstockel@aol.com)

**April 24 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**FIELD TRIP**

**Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County**

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

**“EAGLES, EARTH DAY AND SOTTERLEY”**

Leader(s): 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 Rt. 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through the gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. RSVP at 240-278-4473 or [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com)

**April 30 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**FIELD TRIP**

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

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 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](mailto:dean.newman@md.metrocast.net), [dean.newman@dau.mil](mailto:dean.newman@dau.mil) or 301-672-5464.

**May 4 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

**Southern Maryland Higher Education Center,  
St. Mary's County**

44219 Airport Road, California, MD 20619

**“ST. MARY'S COLLEGE – DATA ANALYSIS  
OF THE PORT TOBACCO CHRISTMAS BIRD  
COUNTS FROM 1988-2013”**

Speaker(s): St. Mary's College Researcher Team

Researchers from St. Mary's College of Maryland, the state's public honors college, will present the results of their statistical analysis of the Port Tobacco Christmas Bird Count data. Thirty years of data will be analyzed to inform the relationship between open space, population, density and bird populations. Many variables will be weighed. Come and learn about our bird populations throughout the years and get a greater understanding of how important bird counts are.

**May 14 – 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: Sherman Suter (410-586-1073,  
[sjsuter29@verizon.net](mailto:sjsuter29@verizon.net))

CHARLES: Michael Patterson (301-752-5763,  
[bigbuteo1@yahoo.com](mailto:bigbuteo1@yahoo.com))

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY: Fred Fallon  
(410-286-8152, [fwfallon@gmail.com](mailto:fwfallon@gmail.com))

ST. MARY'S COUNTY: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623,  
[jtylerbell@yahoo.com](mailto:jtylerbell@yahoo.com))

**May 15 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**FIELD TRIP**

**Calvert Cliffs State Park, Calvert County**  
10540 H.G. Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657

**“WARBLERS AND SPRING MIGRATION”**

Leader: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe

Neotropical migrants should be near their peak.

Expect warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, Red-headed woodpeckers, and other songbirds. Good trails through wooded habitat and along a creek and swamp. Take Route 2/4 south of Prince Frederick for about 14 miles. Follow signs to the park. Meet leaders in parking lot. Facilities and fee (\$5.00), 3-4 mile round trip walk. RSVP to Judy at 410-326-1965 or [jferris11@gmail.com](mailto:jferris11@gmail.com)

**May 22 – SUNDAY – Dawn to Dusk or parts thereof**

**BIRD COUNT**

**Newtowne Neck State Park, St. Mary's County**

MD 243, Compton, MD 20627

**“NEWTOWNE NECK BIRDING BLITZ”**

Organizer: David Moulton

Come for an hour or the day. This will be a concentrated effort to build up the species list at this magnificent but under-birded state park, a former military training site along the Potomac River. Participants will be assigned sectors to ensure broad coverage. Habitat ranges from marshland to fields to deep woods and river beaches. Take Route 5 towards Leonardtown. Turn south onto Route 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for 4.5 miles to parking lot just beyond St. Francis Xavier's Church. RSVP to David Moulton at 240-278-4473 or [moulton.davidh@gmail.com](mailto:moulton.davidh@gmail.com).

**Mid-May – Early June**

**BARN OWLS & BREAKFAST**

**Southern Charles County**

*Youths especially welcome!* The exact date to be determined, it all depends on the owls! Watch our Osprey newsletter and website for exact date and details.

Leader: Mike Callahan

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. RSVP to Mike at 240-765-5192 or [raptorsrulemc@gmail.com](mailto:raptorsrulemc@gmail.com)