

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 May, 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 includes 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.

2013-2014 OFFICERS

President, Mike Callahan 240-765-5192
Vice-President, Michael Patterson 301-752-5763
Secretary, Lynne Wheeler 301-743-3236
Treasurer, Will Daniel 301-274-5756
Past President, Bob Lukinic 301-283-6317

DIRECTORS

Jean Artes 240-274-9789
Ernest Willoughby 301-862-9631
Chris Ordiway 301-267-7803
Craig Makufka 814-591-9303
Melissa Boyle 443-340-3035
Open

COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES
Carol Gheblian
301-753-6754

CONSERVATION
Open

EDUCATION
Chair: Michael Patterson
301-752-5763

FIELD TRIPS
Melissa Boyle
443-340-3035

FINANCE
Paula Willoughby
301-862-9631

RAPTOR CONSERVATION
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240-765-5192

Adopt-a-Raptor
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR
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301-862-4623

PUBLICITY
Paula Willoughby
301-862-9631

SOCIAL MEDIA
Chris Ordiway
240-377-7768

PROGRAMS
Jean Artes
240-274-9789

MEMBERSHIP
Co-Chair: Carol Gheblian
301-753-6754
Co-Chair: Lynne Wheeler
301-743-3236

HOSPITALITY
Gwen Brewer

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



2014 Winter Program

VISIT US ON THE WEB:

www.somdaudubon.org



SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY Field Trips, Programs, Meetings & Events

January 8 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program

Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary's County

37600 New Market Road (Rt. 6 at Rt. 5)

Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

“KENYA AND TANZANIA”

Lance Benedict, *Photographer and Naturalist*

Come join us as Lance Benedict takes us on a visual journey to Kenya and Tanzania. Lance has a doctorate in Aerospace Engineering and is the Montgomery County Coordinator of the Maryland Amphibian and Reptile Atlas. He has made two recent trips to East Africa. This presentation promises beautiful and diverse landscapes, fabulous flora and magnificent wildlife. Birds too, of course!!

January 10 – FRIDAY – 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Field Trip

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

“WINTER OWL PROWL”

Leader(s): Bob Boxwell (410-610-5124, bobboxwell@hotmail.com), and/or Mary Piotrowski (301-643-4108)

Youths especially welcome!

This trip attempts to “call out” the resident owls of the Elms Environmental Education Center. Owls are nocturnal, and therefore not easy to spot. Please dress for the weather, but avoid “noisy” clothing (please no snowsuits!). This event is weather dependent. Rain or high winds will result in cancellation. The address is 49300 St. James Church Road, Dameron, MD 20628. Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (on the right is Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet in the hunter's parking lot on the right before the gate.

January 26 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Field Trip

Piscataway Park & Hard Bargain Farm

Prince George's County

“WINTER WATERFOWL AND RESIDENT BIRDS”

Joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society!

Leaders:

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

Michael Patterson (301-752-5763)

This is a prime area for wintering waterfowl. The varied habitats of woods, farm fields, and edges also provide great variety of birds. Take Rt. 210 (Indian Head Highway) to Livingston Road. Take Livingston Road east and meet at the Burger King in the Food Lion Shopping Center (15785 Livingston Road, Accokeek, Maryland 20607). No facilities. No fee. Limit of 20 participants. RSVP Required. This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society.

February 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Center, Calvert County

Gray's Road off of Sixes Road (Rt. 506),

Prince Frederick, MD

“A NIGHT IN BELIZE”

Andy Brown, *Naturalist*

Andy Brown is the Senior Naturalist for Calvert County, and founder of Caretta Nature Tours. In June, he led a trip to Belize to assist biologists from the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary to collect data on the largest nesting beach in Belize for endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtles. Andy's slides will offer a glimpse of the tropical flora and fauna of this beautiful Central American country.

February 9 – SUNDAY - 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Field Trip

Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County

“WINTER WATERFOWL TRIP”

Leader: Tyler Bell (jtlyerbelle@yahoo.com,
301-862-4623)

Open fields and wood areas provide good land birding, while the river front provides for great close views of winter waterfowl. Call or email the leader for directions to the meeting spot. RSVP required.

February 15 – SATURDAY – 7:00 p.m.

Field Trip

Private Farm, Charles County – Youth Welcome!

“OWL PROWL”

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

On this night hike, we will look for and listen for owls in Charles County. A great family night outing! Due to the sensitivity of possible nesting owls, the location will be given upon registration. RSVP required. Suggested donation of \$5.00 per person.

March 1 – SATURDAY - 8:00 a.m. – Noon

Field Trip

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

“LATE WINTER LAND BIRDS AND WATERFOWL”

Leader: Dean Newman (dean.newman@verizon.net,
240-895-7321)

Meet at the Park and Ride lot across the street from the Lexington Park Post Office on Tulagi Place. This trip has produced Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and Short-Eared Owls in the past. Facilities are available. No fee. You must pre-register for this trip in advance due to security details. Call the leader to register. RSVP required.

March 5 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting Program

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Charles County

911 Washington Avenue, La Plata, MD 20646

“Gull I.D.”

Clive Harris, *Enthusiastic Guller*

“To the Sea, To the Sea! The white gulls are crying” or maybe to the parking lot or dump! Come and enjoy an evening learning how to identify gull species that are expected in our area, both common and rare. Clive will review plumage transition, breeding plumages, plumage variation, hybrid combinations, and other approaches in what is one of the most challenging and subjective puzzles in bird identification.

