

May 18 – SATURDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP – NEW!

American Chestnut Land Trust, Calvert County
676 Double Oak Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678
“Warblers and Spring Migration”

Leader: Judy Ferris and Jan Degeneffe

Join us for one of our dazzling nature gems in Calvert County! ACLT, south of Prince Frederick, has 22 miles of trails across a 3,000 acre preserve. Explore this spectacular property via woodland paths in search of warblers and other neotropical songbirds. Bird migration will be strong, and the flood of breeding birds singing to defend nesting territories. Depending on trail conditions, we may hike 2-3 miles. Muddy spots possible. Meet at the parking lot at the ACLT Office. DIRECTIONS: From Route 4 in Prince Frederick, turn east onto Dares Beach Road/MD 402 (opposite Safeway). Go straight thru round-about. Continue 2.4 miles, take right to Double Oak Road. Continue 1.5 miles to the signed gate, turn left onto the dirt road. Continue 0.4 miles to gravel parking area. RSVP to Judy at jferris11@gmail.com or 410-474-0368.

May 31 - FRIDAY – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT 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 Flag Ponds gate. RSVP to Andy at Andrew.Brown@calvertcountymd.gov or 443-624-3687.

May - June

“Barn Owls and BBQ”

SPECIAL EVENT FIELD TRIP

Likely a mid-May to early June event. The exact date is to be determined; it all depends on the owls! Watch our Osprey newsletter and website for date and details. *Youths especially welcome!*

LEADER: Mike Callahan, SMAS Raptor Conservation Chair.

A different kind of B&B! Come and enjoy a picnic dinner and help 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. This event fills up rapidly and has a small fee. Proceeds go toward raptor conservation projects. Please bring your own reusable plate, mug, and utensils. RSVP to Mike at raptorsrulemc@gmail.com or 240-765-5192.

June 2 – SUNDAY – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Alice Ferguson Foundation,
Cafritz Environmental Center, Prince George’s County
2201 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

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 the Cafritz Environmental Center. It is only the 13th project in the world to achieve full Living Building Challenge certification, the most rigorous and ambitious performance standard for buildings

on the planet. To qualify, a structure must operate for a full year proving that it operates at net-zero energy and net-zero water in addition to being carbon neutral, using construction materials that are non-toxic and non-polluting and meeting numerous other environmental and social criteria. We are so excited to be able to share this innovative state-of-the-art building to our members, as well as a gorgeous location on the Potomac River.



Mid-June – Watch our website for the exact date

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: \$20/person, payable the day of, in cash. Pre-register with Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (or email or text 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 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.

2018-2019 OFFICERS

President, Lynne Wheeler Vice-President, Margarita Rochow
301-743-3236, 301-751-8097 (240) 577-1748
Secretary, Julie Daniel Treasurer, Will Daniel
240-346-1931 571-237-1122
Past President, Michael Patterson
301-752-5763

DIRECTORS

Tim Wells Tiffany Farrell
(301) 643-0928 (301) 609-1345
Julie Simpson Greg Klesch
(301) 743-9243 (301) 884-5188
Lee Vines Tom Seaton
(301) 752-4976 (202) 373-4923

COMMITTEES

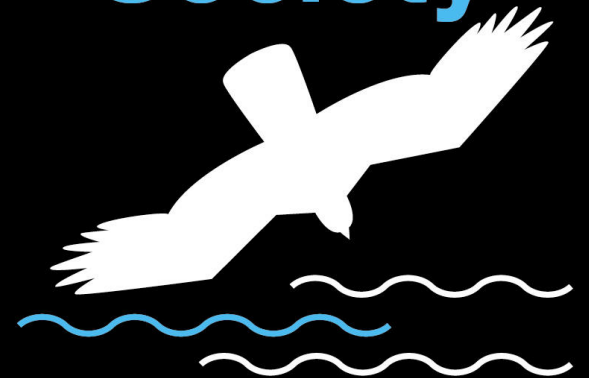
Archives Lynne Wheeler
Bird-Friendly Communities SMAS Board
Conservation Chair: Bob Lukinic
Calvert County – Bob Boxwell
Prince George’s County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
St. Mary’s County – Greg Klesch
Education Chair: Tracey Stuller
Charles County – Jean Artes
St. Mary’s County – Jason Hayes
Calvert County – Bob Boxwell
Prince George’s County – Millie Kriemelmeyer
Field Trips David Moulton
Finance Nancy Megas
Fundraising Georgiana Klesch
Hospitality Robbi Ross
Membership Lynne Wheeler
Newsletter Editor Tyler Bell
Programs Tiffany Farrell
Publicity Nancy Megas
Raptor Conservation. Mike Callahan
Adopt-a-Raptor. Carole Schnitzler
Social Media Nancy Megas
SMAS Special Advisor Carol Ghebelian
Youth Outreach Chair: Lee Vines
Website Karen Showalter

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



2019
JAN-JUNE
FIELD TRIPS
AND
PROGRAMS

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 2 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

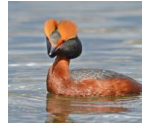
North Point High School,
Staff Development Room, Charles County

2500 Davis Road, Waldorf, MD 20603

“Birds And Climate Change: Using Projections To Inform Conservation”

ZACH SLAVIN, *Community Science,*

National Audubon Society



Ekaterina Papchinskaya
FlickrCC

Audubon's new science sends a clear message about the serious dangers birds face in a warming world. Of the 314 species at risk from global warming, 126 of them are classified as climate endangered. Join us in learning about this threat and what we can do to help protected birds. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

January 13 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Jefferson Patterson Park, 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 location. RSVP to Tyler Bell at jtylerbell@yahoo.com or 301-862-4623.

January 18 – FRIDAY – 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP – YOUTH 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. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapany Road). See sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. Meet in the hunter's dirt parking lot, 100 yards before the gate. Do Not Drive past the gate. RSVP to Bob Boxwell at Bobboxwell@hotmail.com or 410-610-5124.

January 20 – SUNDAY – 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

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

2301 Bryan Point Road, Accokeek, MD 20607

“Winter Waterfowl and Resident Birds”

Leader(s): Lynne Wheeler and Mark Rositol

This is a joint trip with the Audubon Naturalist Society. The varied habitat of water, woods, farm fields and edges provide for a great variety of birds. See fergusonfoundation.org for directions. Bill

Townsend, HBF Educator Associate will meet you at the entrance (red Chevy). No fee. Limit to 20 participants. RSVP to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or text (301) 751-8097.

February 6 – WEDNESDAY – 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

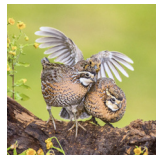
Flag Ponds Nature Park, Calvert County
1525 Flag Pond Parkway, Lusby, MD 20657

“Northern Bobwhite in Maryland”

BOB LONG, *Project Manager,*

Wildlife and Heritage Service, MD DNR

The number of Northern bobwhite have declined by more than 90% in Maryland. This presentation will outline the factors implicated in the decline, biology, and habitat requirements of quail, and initiatives to restore populations. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



Lillian Beasley
Audubon Photography
Awards

February 16 - SATURDAY – 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 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 raptorsruleme@gmail.com.

February 15 – 18 is the 21st ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!

Special GBBC events have been scheduled throughout Southern Maryland!!! Please see our website and Facebook page for local activities throughout Southern Maryland.

February 24 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

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

“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 kyle.rambo@navy.mil or 301-757-0005.

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Port Tobacco Courthouse, Charles County
8430 Commerce St, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

**“STRAWS - PLASTIC POLLUTION
IN OUR WATERWAY”**

This is a joint program hosted by SMAS and the Port Tobacco River Conservancy. Join us for a powerful documentary about plastic straws and other forms of plastic pollution that inundate our waterways and oceans. The film illustrates how individuals,



groups, and businesses around the globe are reducing plastic straw use through education, collaboration, policy development and utilization of non-plastic alternatives. The event will also feature our local Ocean Guardian students from J.C. Parks Elementary, further emphasizing the harm plastics are causing to our environment. Information about our recent Charles County ban on plastic straws will also be made available. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

March 17– SUNDAY – 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

“Get Your Green On! Eagle Nest and Signs of Spring”

Leader: Lynne Wheeler

Join us for an update about our Port Tobacco River Park eagle nest and learn about the Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership citizen-science monitoring program. As we also look for spring ephemerals on the trails and all signs of spring. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

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

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Mount Aventure at Chapman State Park, Charles County

3452 Ferry Place, Indian Head, MD 20640

“OLD GROWTH FORESTS IN MARYLAND”

GWEN BREWER, *Science Program Manager,*

Maryland Department of Natural Resources,

Wildlife and Heritage Service



Photo by R.H. Simmons

Maryland may not have the majestic old growth redwood forests of the western U.S., but the state does have some amazing forest patches with trees over 400 years old. Come learn about these special places, including the animals that they support and efforts to protect them like the Old Growth Forest Network. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 21 – SUNDAY

EARTH DAY SPECIAL EVENTS

Protect Our Species

Earth Day 2019 is Monday, April 22. This year the focus will be to Protect Our Species. Join us in helping to protect our native plant species with invasive plant removal, and learn about the importance of bird habitat and declining species. Please check our website for other events that may have been added throughout Southern Maryland.

April 21 - SUNDAY - 8 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

EARTH DAY FIELD TRIP

Port Tobacco River Park, Charles County

7685 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

Come and join us as we enjoy looking for migrating birds, check on our eagle nest, and spring ephemerals. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 21 - SUNDAY – 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

EARTH DAY FIELD TRIP

Chapel Point State Park, Charles County

8855 Chapel Point Road, Port Tobacco, MD 20677

All hands on deck! Help with invasive plant removal. The Southern Maryland Audubon Society and the Port Tobacco River Conservancy are helping to protect our native plant species by removal of invasive plants. Come help and celebrate Earth Day. Gloves provided. RSVP to Lynne at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).

April 21 – SUNDAY – 8 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

EARTH DAY FIELD TRIP

Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary's County

44300 Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD 20636

“What's Soaring at Sotterley”

Leader(s): David Moulton

Kick off Earth Day week with a birdwalk at this scenic and historic Patuxent River property as the annual surge of migrating birds begins throughout St. Mary's County. Nesting Bald Eagles, migrating warblers, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can all 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 moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.



April 27 – SATURDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

FIELD TRIP

Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary's County

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, MD 20628

“Birding 101”

Leader(s): Judy Ferris and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders!! Youths Welcome!! Are you tired of wondering and saying “What bird is that?” Birding 101 is the field trip for you! The more you walk the walk, the better you become! The Elms Environmental Education Center offers great habitat for birds. Your leaders will share helpful identification pointers such as: bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation, and birding apps. Directions: Take Rt 235 south, left onto St. James Church Road (opposite Mattapany Road). You will see the sign for the Elms Environmental Education Center. We will meet in the hunter's dirt parking lot, 100 yards before the gate. Do not drive past the gate. RSVP to Judy at jferris11@gmail.com or 410-474-0368.

May 1 – WEDNESDAY – 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM

Charles Soil Conservation District, Charles County

4200 Gardiner Road, Waldorf, MD 20601

“Get Smart – Appropriate Birding”

MIKE CALLAHAN, *SMAS Raptor*

Conservation Chair, Environmental

Educator and TIM WELLS, *SMAS Director,*

Charles SCD Conservation Engineer

Get smart with your smart phone with APPropriate birding. Come learn how to participate in citizen science with birding and nature apps. No smart phone? That's o.k. we will talk about computer software too. Be prepared for some outdoor exploration, followed by indoor discussion. Light refreshments and mingling start at 7 p.m. Public invited. Free event. Inquiries to Lynne Wheeler at somdaudubon@yahoo.com or 301-751-8097 (prefer text).



MAY 11 – SATURDAY – ALL DAY

COUNTY MAY COUNTS

Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and 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), fyfallon@gmail.com
ST. MARY'S: Tyler Bell (301-862-4623), jtylerbell@yahoo.com