

## LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY UPCOMING PROGRAMS and FIELD TRIPS

**Board Meetings** — LWC's Board normally meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All LWC members are welcome. *Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org) for additional information.*

**Birding Banshee — Saturday, July 10, 8:00 a.m.** Join LWC and the Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this part of the county is a birding hot spot. Please bring binoculars. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org).*

**Butterfly Walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship — Saturday, July 17, 10:00 a.m.** Join Joe Coleman on a free, family butterfly walk at this beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. We will observe many butterflies nectaring at the butterfly-friendly organic farm and the surrounding wild areas. The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rte 671, a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. Detailed directions can be found on the website, [www.brces.org](http://www.brces.org). Meet at the Visitor Center at 10:00 a.m. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org) or 540-554-2542.*

**Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, July 18, 1:00 p.m.** Join a naturalist from the Friends of Banshee Reeks and LWC for a free, informal family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this such a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.*

**Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, July 24, 8:00 a.m.** On the fourth Saturday of each month (except December), LWC leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES), a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes on the Blue Ridge. The Center is located just north of Neersville, at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Meet at the visitor center. Detailed directions can be found on the website, [www.brces.org](http://www.brces.org). *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org) or 540-554-2542.*

**Gray Tree Frogs, Enjoy The Chorus — Saturday, July 24, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Registration Required.** Join us at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship for an evening learning about Gray Tree Frogs, their habits, habitats needs, and lifecycle. The program will also include time in the field to listen to the frogs' calls and to spot a few. Please bring a flashlight or headlamp as well as a chair to sit on. Meet at the Visitor Center off of Rte 671, a little north of the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station and on the west side of the road. **Registration is required** as the size of the program is limited. Detailed directions can be found on the website, [www.brces.org](http://www.brces.org). Sign up online (<http://www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm>) or contact Nicole Hamilton at [nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org).

**Butterflies and Dragonflies at Claude Moore Park — Sunday, July 25, 10:30 a.m.** Join Nicole Hamilton and Andy Rabin for a free, family butterfly and dragonfly walk. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas that comprise this beautiful park and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. Claude Moore Park is located at 21544 Vestal's Gap Rd. in Sterling Va. If you own binoculars, please bring them. Questions: contact Andy Rabin at [stylurus@gmail.com](mailto:stylurus@gmail.com).

**Butterfly Safari — Wednesday, July 28, at the Broadlands Community Center, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Families with children ages 5 and up flutter on over and join the fun as local naturalist, storyteller, and the co-founder of the Washington Area Butterfly Club, Alonso Abugattas, shares some wonderful facts about these winged wonders. Discover the many clever ways these delicate creatures have of surviving. The Broadlands Community Center is located at 43008 Waxpool Rd, Broadlands. Free family program. *Questions: contact Laura Weidner at [lweidner@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:lweidner@loudounwildlife.org)*

**Annual Loudoun County Butterfly Count — Saturday, August 7, 9:00 a.m.** Join LWC on its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Butterfly Count, centered in the Waterford area. No experience is necessary; novices will be teamed with experienced leaders in each segment of the count. Counters will visit various locations that include butterfly gardens, sanctuaries, roadside wildflower and grassy areas, and parks. Over 2,000 butterflies can usually be counted in this single day, and up to 50 different species can be found. Our count circle stretches from White's Ferry in the east to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in the west to Point of Rocks and south to Lincoln. Please bring a lunch and water. Binoculars are also helpful. **Registration Required.** *For more information or to register and receive directions, please sign up online ([http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly\\_Count.htm](http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly_Count.htm)) or contact Nicole Hamilton at [nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org)*

**Birding Banshee — Saturday, August 14, 8:00 a.m.** See the July 10 listing for details.

**Dragonflies at Banshee Reeks — Sunday, August 22, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.** Join LWC for one of our free, family dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas at Banshee Reeks and identify all of the dragonflies we can find. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Andy Rabin at [stylurus@gmail.com](mailto:stylurus@gmail.com).*

**Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, August 28, 8:00 a.m.** See the July 24 listing for details.

**Annual Waterford Labor Day Picnic — Sunday, September 5, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** For the past three years, LWC has partnered with the Waterford Foundation to build a vegetative riparian buffer on the Phillips Farm. Join us at this annual celebration of the project. Bring a picnic and enjoy it at the Mill, join us on a guided tour of the history and natural wonders at the Phillips Farm, and watch a Monarch Butterfly release.

**Wings Over Sky Meadow — Monday, September 6, 8:00 a.m. - Noon. Pre-registration required.** Only 30 minutes from Loudoun and situated on the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sky Meadows State Park offers a mix of habitats, including meadow, forest, field, and stream. Explore this natural area with Joe Coleman and Laura

Weidner in search of birds, both resident and fall migrants, and late-season butterflies. We will walk up to 3 miles, some uphill and downhill in sunny terrain, but at a leisurely pace. Co-sponsored with the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). **Pre-registration required:** Members (ANS & LWC): \$23; Nonmembers: \$32. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.

**Birding Banshee — Saturday, September 11, 8:00 a.m.** See the July 10 listing for details.

**Chimney Swift Night Out – (September date and location TBD). Registration Required.** Chimney Swifts congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of six birds, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! One such roost has been found in the Lincoln area. Meet at the Goose Creek Friends parking lot where Lincoln RD intersects with Sands and Foundry Roads. Bring a blanket to sit on and binoculars. We'll sit on a lawn area across from the chimneys where the birds roost and watch their wonderful aerial flights. **Registration Required.** Please [Sign Up online](#). Keep an eye on our website for details of this field trip.

**Birding the Appalachian Trail and Hawk Watch — Saturday, September 18, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Join us as we hike along the Appalachian Trail in search of migrants in the morning. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Snickers Gap to car pool to a close-by location for a hike that leads to a beautiful waterfall. Around 11:00 a.m., we'll meet back at the Snickers Gap Hawk Watch for a few hours of hawk watching and possibly see a major push of Broad-winged Hawks. Bring a lunch and a chair. Meet us at 8:00 a.m. at Snickers Gap or join us at 11:00 at the Snickers Gap Hawk Watch. *Questions: contact Mary Ann Good at [magood1@verizon.net](mailto:magood1@verizon.net).*

**Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, September 19, 1:00 p.m.** See July 18 listing for details.

**Mid-Week Nature Walk at Dulles Wetlands — Tuesday, September 21, 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Registration Required.** Join Joe Coleman and Phil Daley on a free, mid-week nature walk to explore the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project to see birds, butterflies, and wildflowers. Waterproof footgear, long pants and insect repellent advised. This field trip is being co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bird Club. *To register or for questions contact Joe Coleman at [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org) or 540-554-2542.*

**An Introduction to Our Local Snakes – Wednesday, September 22, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., location TBD.** Liam McGranaghan will present a slide show on the snakes one is likely to see in our area. Learn more about these fascinating creatures and why they are a valuable part of the world around us. Come at 7:00 for light refreshments and meet the speaker; the free program will start at 7:30.

**Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, September 25, 8:00 a.m.** See the July 24 listing for details.

**Birding Banshee — Saturday, October 9, 8:00 a.m.** See the July 10 listing for details.

**Exploring Wetlands — Saturday, October 16, 9:00 a.m. – noon. (Location TBD). Registration Required.** Join Jeff Wolinski, a Consulting Ecologist and wetlands expert, on a visit to one of our local wetlands. As we explore the wetlands, Jeff will describe the plants, soils, and other characteristics that blend together to create one of nature's most fascinating and important natural habitats. **Register online** at [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org) or contact Joe Coleman at [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org) or 540-554-2542.

**Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, October 17, 1:00 p.m.** See the July 18 listing for details.

**Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, October 23, 8:00 a.m.** See the July 24 listing for details.

Questions about the above programs? Contact Laura Weidner at [lweidner@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:lweidner@loudounwildlife.org)

For up-to-date information on our programs check our web site at  
**[www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)**