

# Habitat Herald

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## What is Green Infrastructure? *By Cheri Conca*

We hear a lot about green infrastructure lately. What exactly is it, and why is it so important? Now is a great time to learn, as Loudoun's current green infrastructure blueprint is at risk of falling on the cutting room floor during the County's new comprehensive plan draft process.

Forests, floodplains, wetlands, meadows and open space comprise the "green" in green infrastructure. When interconnected, these geographic features function as a natural infrastructure, providing valuable health, economic, and recreational services, as well as critical habitat for breeding and migrating wildlife. While rain gardens, bioswales and green rooftops are also components of green infrastructure, it is our large-scale geographic features that are at immediate risk, and that each one of us has an opportunity to preserve.

The ecological functions of green infrastructure cannot be replaced. It absorbs floodwaters, mitigates drought damage, lowers surface temperatures and energy use, and filters contaminants that flow into the public water supply. For those on well water, preserved stands of forest and meadows allow

rainwater to slowly filter and seep into the ground to replenish the drinking supply.

What would we rely on in the absence of green infrastructure? Gray infrastructure. In other words, pipes-and-ponds to manage stormwater runoff. However, stormwater management is the only function of gray infrastructure. Green infrastructure, on the other hand, is multi-functional. It not only manages stormwater in a natural, cost-effective manner, it also provides valuable services such as clean drinking water, good air quality, carbon sequestration, recreation, an outlet for well-being, and biodiversity. Gray infrastructure stormwater systems are capital intensive and require periodic upgrades. Plus, they collect and carry runoff rainwater from streets, roofs and parking lots, which leads to erosion, and the draining of chemicals straight into drinking water supplies.

Green infrastructure saves money and reduces future spending. For example, a survey by the American Water Works Association found that a 10 percent increase in forest cover reduced chemical and treatment costs of drinking water by 20 percent.

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## President's Message

by Joe Coleman

For 22 years Loudoun Wildlife has, with your help, been preserving, creating and advocating for high quality natural habitats for birds, butterflies, amphibians, turtles, and all of the county's wildlife.

In 2016, with a small staff and a host of dedicated volunteers, Loudoun Wildlife led over 50 field trips for almost 900 people, hosted 25 different programs with almost 1,400 attendees on a wide variety of topics ranging from native bees to the life of an owl to identifying spring warblers. We were fortunate to have both Jim McWalters, last year's Volunteer of the Year and our chair for Programs and Field Trips, and Sarah Steadman, this year's Volunteer of the Year and our chair for Youth and Family Programs, coordinate those.

From our very first program in the spring of 1995 we've been educating people of all ages about wildlife and the native plants that they need to thrive. For the past few years one of our main missions has been gardening for wildlife and how to manage properties, large and small, naturally. Last year 18 Audubon at Home volunteers, coordinated by Ann Garvey (Volunteer of the Year in 2013), certified 39 properties bringing the total acreage certified as wildlife sanctuaries to 3,138. As a result of our campaign to bring Monarchs back, 46 of the County's 86 schools have certified Monarch Waystations. Additionally, we reached about 2,000 people through talks at conferences and to local groups and schools and made 3,000 milkweed plants available to local residents through plant sales. Nicole Sudduth oversaw the Monarch Campaign.

While bluebird numbers began to plummet in the mid-20th century, nestbox programs like ours, all over the country, have brought bluebirds back to healthy levels as our citizen science surveys show. In 2016, Karla Etten, our Bluebird Coordinator, worked with numerous volunteers who maintained 50 different trails with 561 boxes. In addition to the 988 bluebirds, 124 chickadees, 988 Tree Swallows, and 368 House Wrens fledged from these boxes. Our Bluebird Trail program has grown into the state's second largest nestbox trail system.

None of what we do would be possible without a dedicated core of staff, program coordinators, and Board of Directors. We would like to thank those individuals who are leaving our Board Members for all their hard work and contributions. All of them have emphasized that while they are going off the Board, they are passionate about helping Loudoun Wildlife accomplish its

mission. Katherine Daniels, who was President and shows her love of nature with wonderful photographs, has worked incredibly hard to develop our infrastructure, and with the incredibly successful Martinis Matters fundraiser showed us how to raise the money needed to accomplish our mission. Jill Miller has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get our new website up and running. Bill Brown, our Secretary, contributed extensively in numerous areas of the organization helping with programs and field trips, citizen science, fund raising, and conservation advocacy. They, along with Phil Paschall, were all invaluable advisors guiding us in the move from an all-volunteer organization to one with a blend of staff and volunteers.



Joe Coleman

And those are only a fraction of the numerous people critical to the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's success. Without all of them Loudoun Wildlife would be a much less successful organization – thank you!

For the past two years we have concentrated on building the infrastructure and ways to finance everything we do. While we need to continue to build our infrastructure and find additional sources of funding, a number of us believe it is time for us to return to devoting most of our time and energy to our mission, the preservation and proliferation of wildlife habitat! I firmly believe that if we do our job, funding will follow.

We do have a major advocacy role to play this year because the County is developing a new Comprehensive Plan which will guide development for the next decade or two. Because this is so important we decided late last year that we needed additional staff to work with our Executive Director, Nicole Sudduth, to ensure that Plan includes a Green Infrastructure component with measurable and enforceable standards for natural areas. Today both Nicole and Cheri Conca are doing just that. The push for increased development along with pressure to allow even higher densities threatens wildlife populations throughout the County. Clean water and clean air are critical to a healthy environment – without them, not only is wildlife threatened, but humankind as well. With your help, financially and physically, Loudoun Wildlife is working to ensure that all of Loudoun County will continue to welcome the natural environment.

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The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group of volunteers who share a common goal of protecting and perpetuating natural habitats for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board meets quarterly. Board meetings are open to all current members. For more information, or to suggest topics for discussion at upcoming meetings, contact Nicole Sudduth.

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### ■ Green Infrastructure continued

For green infrastructure to function effectively, geographic features must be purpose-built and interconnected, not just a patch of grass or a dog park. Fragmentation is the enemy of green infrastructure. Fragmented ecological areas are vulnerable to invasive species and disease, and do not provide the necessary habitat for many of our native wildlife species. On an administrative level, fragmentation of oversight poses another threat to green infrastructure. County agencies must coordinate and communicate with each other, and with state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations, to protect and connect critical land and water. The key to successful green infrastructure is to identify and preserve ecological hubs, and connect them via corridors that allow for the movement of wildlife and people. This can be accomplished on a small scale in neighborhoods, and on a large scale in stream valleys, on farms, and throughout large portions of entire counties and regions.

How much forest, wetland or meadow needs to be protected to qualify as an ecological hub? The Green Infrastructure Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, recommends that ecological hubs be comprised of habitats that have adequate interior area that is unfragmented by intrusions such as roads or power lines that create edges that facilitate encroachment from invasive species or predators. In the eastern U.S., 100 acres of green infrastructure with proper conditions (that does not include the necessary 300-foot buffer from surrounding land use) is a minimum size to accommodate a diversity of native forest-dwelling animals, birds and plants.

Many species need more habitat than the minimum requirements listed above. Let's take the cerulean warbler as an example. These dazzling birds are considered area-sensitive because they prefer breeding in large, deciduous hardwood forest tracts that have tall, large-diameter trees of diverse heights. Cerulean warblers are sensitive to forest fragmentation. One study found a 50% decrease in occurrence when forest patch size dropped from 7,410 acres to 1,729 acres. No birds were detected on patches of less than 341 acres.

Our Board of Supervisors and county staff are under enormous pressure from the building industry to add more housing developments, and the accompanying schools and services that come along with development. As the population grows, so does our deficit of parkland, the demand for abundant, clean water and open space, and the need to preserve wildlife habitat. A strong green infrastructure delivers solutions for all of these needs, reduces demand for gray infrastructure and contributes to economic development by conserving the unique landscape that draws so many people to Loudoun to enjoy the natural, historic and agricultural gems that define our community.

How do we preserve and enhance Loudoun's green infrastructure? Through the county's comprehensive plan, a document that guides our community's future actions through long-range goals and objectives. The current plan includes a Green Infrastructure Policy that we want to keep, and fortify with measurable standards of success.

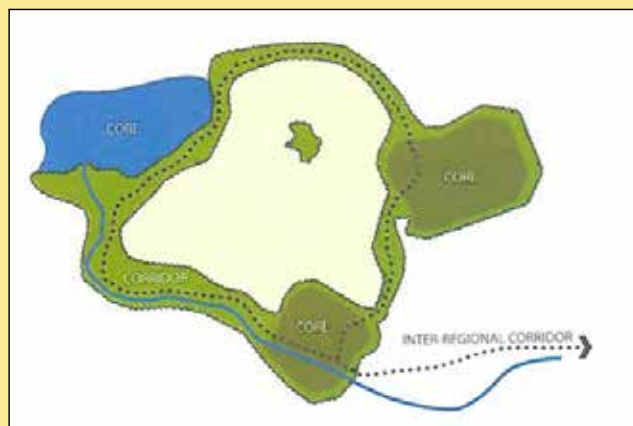
Now is the time to voice our support for inclusion of green infrastructure policy in the new comprehensive plan, while land is still available or relatively affordable. We must tell our County Supervisors that we want them to protect and preserve our natural habitats now and in the future. It would behoove each of the supervisors to leave a legacy of a protected, connected Loudoun, in the form of a strong green infrastructure plan. It was none other than Ronald Reagan who said, "Preservation of our environment is not a liberal or conservative challenge, it's common sense."

### Resources

- <http://novaregion.org/documentcenter/home/view/3099>
- <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/soc/birds/cerw/cerw-fctsheets.html>
- [http://www.lmvjv.org/hsi\\_model/species/cerw/s\\_cerw.aspx](http://www.lmvjv.org/hsi_model/species/cerw/s_cerw.aspx)
- <http://www.gicinc.org/index.htm>
- Barton & Ernst, Land Conservation and Watershed Management for Source Protection (AWWA Journal, April 2004) <https://www.awwa.org/publications/journal-awwa/abstract/articleid/15007.aspx>



*Development has caused backyard flooding and hazards.  
From Strategic Green Infrastructure Planning by Karen Firehock.  
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*Each core consists of a central area of undisturbed wildlife habitat, which is surrounded by an edge area that serves as a buffer, protecting the inner core habitat from erosion, invasive species, predators, wind and sun, and human intrusion.  
From Strategic Green Infrastructure Planning by Karen Firehock.  
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## Ligi Nestlings 2017 Bird-a-thon Report

We were truly winging it for this year's bird-a-thon. We made a last minute decision to move things up a day and left the house around 10 am, thinking we'd be home for lunch. Little did we know, we had a full day adventure ahead of us! We got off to an exciting start with Addison identifying robins and cardinals right and left! We explored the beautiful Blue Ridge Center and played our family game of 'pooh sticks' on the bridge. Dad and I asked the nestlings if they wanted to head home or keep birding. To my surprise, they decided to keep going and make a day of it (I think bribing them with lunch at Burger King helped). While hiking around the Rust Sanctuary in Leesburg we discovered that little Catherine is quite a hiker - she loved sloshing through the mud and climbing over any tree in her path. We stopped briefly at Izaak Walton pond and as fate would have it, we ran into a nice gentleman who told us about a heron rookery at an old golf course/now nature preserve in Bluemont. So off we went! To the girls' delight, we actually found the rookery

through all the leaves (thank goodness they are noisy!) and watched a few herons fly in and out of the nests. This was our first time at this remote nature preserve and wow, what a special place. Six hours, five potty breaks, lots of puddle jumping, and 37 species later we headed home tired and happy. I'm so proud of my nestlings - we've come so far since our first few bird-a-thons and created some wonderful family memories!

We raised over \$570 to support Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's bird-friendly educational programs, habitat restoration, and citizen science projects. A huge thanks goes to our friends and family for their generous support and encouragement along the way. And a special thanks goes to dad, our honorary team member, whose birding skills have also grown over the years. We couldn't have enjoyed such an amazing adventure without his help and good sense of direction!

Here's our list for the day:

Canada Goose 41 (*Addison liked counting the geese on the ponds as we drove by*)

Rock Pigeon 1

Mourning Dove 3 (*Catherine calls them 'mourning douds'*)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird 2 (*1 observed doing a courtship dance*)

Double-crested Cormorant 6 (*sunning themselves on a rock in the Potomac River as we crossed into Virginia*)

Great Blue Heron 15 (*finding a rookery along a half mile stretch of river is a bit like finding a needle in a hay stack, but we worked together and found it!*)

Green Heron 1 (*flew off the pond as we not-so-quietly approached, the girls were so excited!*)

Black Vulture 2

Turkey Vulture 7

Red-tailed Hawk 2

Belted Kingfisher 1

Eastern Phoebe 4

Eastern Kingbird 1

Blue Jay 2

American Crow 3

Tree Swallow 8 (*1 flew out of the nest box as we approached*)

Carolina Chickadee 1 (*put on a great show for the girls*)

Eastern Bluebird 10 (*observed carrying food into a nest box*)

American Robin 7

Gray Catbird 2

Northern Mockingbird 1

European Starling 9 (*observed carrying food into a nest cavity*)

Cedar Waxwing 2

House Sparrow 1

House Finch 7

American Goldfinch 6 (*Addison and McKenzie both spotted and identified!*)

Common Yellowthroat 2 (*McKenzie liked singing back and forth with them*)

Eastern Towhee 1

Chipping Sparrow 4

Field Sparrow 2

White-throated Sparrow 1

Northern Cardinal 7

Indigo Bunting 2

Red-winged Blackbird 25

Common Grackle 12

Brown-headed Cowbird 3

Baltimore Oriole 2 (*observed a gorgeous male, our first of the season!*)



Ligi Nestlings on their Bird-a-thon  
Photos by Steven Ligi



## Celebrating Bird Migration *by Joe Coleman*

Every spring the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy celebrates one of the world's most wonderful phenomena, bird migration. While birds migrate year round, from late April through early June, millions of birds journey north from their wintering grounds, and many of them pass through our area. To observe, record, and celebrate that migration we sponsor a number of bird walks and a Birdathon every year – this year was no exception as 133 species of birds were identified in Loudoun County on the six different walks and by the six Birdathon teams.

The first and last walks were in the eastern part of the county at Horsepen Preserve and Algonkian Park, both co-led by Allison Gallo and Bryan Henson with Elliot Bernard assisting at Algonkian. Mary Ann Good and Joe Coleman co-led the next walk at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project. It was followed by walks at Camp Highroad co-led by Linda Millington and Christine Perdue, and the Goodstone Inn co-led by Linda Millington and Mary Ann Good. Banshee Reeks, led by Joe Coleman and Dori Rhodes, took place on May 13.

Weather had a significant impact on the six participating Birdathon teams--the Find Feathered Friends, the Grumpy Old Men, the Happy Thrashers, the Larkolinks, the Ligi Nestlings, and Shrike Force--with heavy rains occurring during a couple of them and high winds during others. Shrike Force, fortunate

to have good weather, found the most species, 111. And while all the teams, regardless of the weather, enjoyed themselves, the Ligi Nestlings, as usual, clearly had the most fun, and the teams together raised almost \$9,000 for Loudoun Wildlife. By checking out our website at <https://loudounwildlife.org/2017/03/birdathon-donation-form/> you can not only find the names of the teams members, but make a donation in one of the team's names.

Our thanks go to all the people who led walks, raised money in the Birdathon, and sponsored one of the Birdathon teams. Our thanks also go to Wild Birds Unlimited-Ashburn for sponsoring the Birdathon with prizes for the winning team.

Every year Celebrating Birds reminds us how beautiful and rich Loudoun County's natural habitats are and how much they vary from the shore of the Potomac River near Harpers Ferry and the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the parks in eastern Loudoun and the many natural areas in between. We're also reminded that while some of these areas are protected, many are not, and without our continuing efforts and your assistance, will be lost. Thank you for helping the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy protect the homes of numerous birds and other animals.

## Meet Our New Board Members – Class of 2018



**Julie Borneman 2018** Julie is a 17-year Loudoun resident originally from Northern Illinois where she grew up along the Mississippi River. Her parents planted the ecology seed long ago encouraging her to investigate nature. Julie has worked with several non-profit boards in the past serving as PTA president, Master Gardener Chair and as an

HOA board member. Julie is also a member of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce Green Business Committee. Professionally, Julie has worked as a computer analyst and training coordinator.

Julie is always learning. This year she learned more about pesticides and their effect on the environment by becoming a certified pesticide applicator. She recently learned to weld. And she is currently taking classes to become a certified horticulturalist. While she loves gardening and the plant world, the real draw of plants is the wildlife habitat they create. For her, nature is the ultimate classroom.

Julie lives in Hamilton with her husband Chris and two teenagers where they run Watermark Woods Native Plant Nursery.



**Allison Gallo 2018** Allison's love of nature began early; in kindergarten, she couldn't wait for recess so she could run to the creek and look for salamanders and crayfish. In 1994, she started a business that didn't leave much time to pursue her interest in nature, but always carried binoculars and field guides in her car in case the

opportunity presented itself. Allison sold her business in 2013 and was thrilled to be able to spend much of her time birding, hiking and learning as much as she could about nature. In that time, she's become a Virginia Master Naturalist, an Audubon At Home Ambassador and her home was certified as an Audubon at Home wildlife habitat and a Monarch Waystation. Allison began leading bird and nature walks in Loudoun County last year and really enjoys finding ways to engage people in nature and the amazing things happening around us every day.





**Anne Owen 2018** Anne is a PhD Mechanical Engineer, now retired from more than 30 years with ExxonMobil, who considers herself a life-long Naturalist. She started scuba diving as a teenager and was quickly interested in the marine environment, firstly in the UK, which has a surprisingly rich marine diversity, then gradually starting to

travel abroad to warmer oceans and coral reefs which led her to an appreciation of the inter-connectedness of nature. In 1996, while working in New Jersey she started birding as a result of visiting such hot spots as Cape May.

Moving to Loudoun County in 2014 she bought a 3-acre mostly wooded property. Her immediate concern was how to best manage the property to preserve and enrich its value as wildlife habitat and that led her to sign up for the Virginia Master Naturalist program. Loudoun Wildlife's Audubon at Home program was the next natural step and her property was certified as such in 2015. She is now active with the program as an Ambassador.

She sees Loudoun Wildlife's focus on locally preserving and restoring wildlife habitat as a tremendous example of "Think Global, Act Local" which in these uncertain times for environmental protection has the potential to be of enormous significance.

### Dave Manning 2019

Dave took on the leadership of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Healthy Stream Program in 2015 and is busy rebuilding the stream monitoring citizen science network.

Dave is an avid participant in the Christmas Bird Count and enjoys the many bird walks sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife. He has assisted in the establishment of bluebird box trails and actively monitors two bluebird trails. In his spare time, Dave works as an executive in the Northern Virginia high-tech community where he does not use his Environmental Sciences degree.

### Linda Sieh 2019

Linda has been a Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy volunteer for over 10 years. She and her husband, Steve, have lived in the eastern part of the county since 1983 where they raised two sons. The entire family treasures Loudoun's natural areas and their inhabitants, and still get together for long walks to photograph, identify, and enjoy learning about the things they discover along the trails. Linda has a BS in Accounting, is a charter member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant's not-for-profit section, and has over 30 years' experience directing finance, administration, governance, and human resource functions for Washington metro area trade associations and foundations. She is currently collaborating with colleagues to administer two multi-million dollar Natural Resources Conservation Service grants designed to improve environmental practices on U.S. farmland. She served as Loudoun Wildlife's treasurer for 4 years from 2010 through 2014 and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2013 in recognition of improvements made to its financial recordkeeping, reporting, and member database structure during her tenure. As a Loudoun Wildlife volunteer, Linda re-established a bluebird nest box monitoring program in her community, co-led IMBD and other walks in Horsepen Run Nature Preserve, and participated in several of its citizen science programs.



A winged spark doth soar about --  
I never met it near  
For Lightning it is oft mistook  
When nights are hot and sere --

Its twinkling Travels it pursues  
Above the Haunts of men --a  
A speck of Rapture -- first perceived  
By feeling it is gone --  
Rekindled by some action quaint

Emily Dickinson



### If You Catch A Firefly

by Lillian Moore

If you catch a firefly  
and keep it in a jar  
You may find that  
you have lost  
A tiny star.

If you let it go then,  
back into the night,  
You may see it  
once again  
Star bright.



## Firefly *Photinus pyralis* by Kerry Bzdyk

I can remember one 4th of July, walking the W&OD bike trail back from a fireworks display in the evening and being just amazed at the natural light show all around and in the trees. The bike trail was very dark but the firefly display was spectacular. It was far and away more impressive to me than the fireworks we had just witnessed. Nothing represents summer evenings outdoors like the courtship display of the firefly.

Fireflies are actually beetles and while there are about 2000 species worldwide, and twenty or so in the northern Virginia area, the one we are most familiar with is the common eastern firefly or *Photinus pyralis*. These are the slower, low flying and easy to catch fireflies (or “lightning bugs”) that delight young entomologists in most states east of the Rockies from Maine to Texas. Adults are dark brown and 10 to 14mm long, with three body parts (head, thorax, and abdomen), antennae and six legs. The head has a rounded cover that is dark brown with a yellow edge and two orange spots. They have two pairs of wings; the elytra are the harder outer pair that covers the second pair. The wings are also dark brown with a narrow yellow stripe on the margin. Females have fully formed wings like the males, but rarely fly. The last segment of the abdomen is the part that lights up through bioluminescence with a bright yellow-green flash. The males will begin flying around sunset, low to the ground, and use their flashing signals to attract mates or prey. The females remain on the ground and answer the males with a specific flash of their own. After mating, the female will lay up to 500 eggs in damp soil. Eggs hatch after 4 weeks and the flightless larvae feed on other insects, earthworms and snails. The larval stage lasts one to two years and larvae, or “glow worms” can sometimes be seen glowing on the ground near streams. After pupating underground, the adults emerge in late spring and live for only about 30 days, lighting up our summer nights.

As I was gathering information for this article, a friend told me about a researcher who is studying fireflies in our area. Ariel Firebaugh is a UVA graduate student looking at the effects of artificial light and urbanization on fireflies at UVA's Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce, Va. I was lucky enough to have my home property included in her survey and I contacted her about her work. Here is a bit about the survey in her own words: “Fireflies are extremely charismatic insects, but there are many basic questions about firefly diversity and ecology that scientists have not yet been able to answer. Exactly how

many firefly species are there? Are firefly populations declining, increasing, or holding steady? What role, if any, does land use changes such as urbanization play in shaping firefly distributions and abundances? The field data needed to address these questions is surprisingly sparse.

My project seeks to survey the distribution, abundances, and diversity of fireflies across much of Virginia in response to concerns that fireflies are becoming less common in the region. For logistical reasons, I've chosen to focus my efforts this summer on the areas in and around five cities in Virginia: Winchester, Leesburg, Charlottesville, Richmond, and Roanoke. A number of volunteers in each city have generously allowed me to come survey fireflies in their backyards, so just about every night during June and July, I'll be excited to have the opportunity to meet new people and observe local firefly communities. I hope the project will shed light on how fireflies in Virginia may be affected by landscape-level changes associated with urbanization.”

Even if you are not involved in Ariel Firebaugh's survey, you can still get involved and help monitor the populations of fireflies in our area by participating in citizen science projects such as Firefly Watch, which is affiliated with the Boston Museum of Science. They have an open call for volunteers to monitor firefly populations around their homes. The protocol is easy to follow and takes just a few minutes each week to complete. Visit their website at: <https://legacy.mos.org/fireflywatch/>

Whether surveying for science or just enjoying the magic of this summer phenomenon, take some time to observe and appreciate the amazing fleeting beauty of the fireflies.

### Resources

- [http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Photinus\\_pyralis/](http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Photinus_pyralis/)
- <http://bugguide.net/node/view/63819>



Firefly Close-up  
Photo by Kerry Bzdyk

“Magic is seeing wonder in nature's every little thing, seeing how wonderful the fireflies are and how magical are the dragonflies.”

Ama H. Vanniararchchy



# Gardening for Bees

by Anne Owen, Audubon at Home Ambassador



Two-spotted Bumblebee (*Bombus bimaculatus*)

Photo by Jeff Lester Photography



Sweat bee on Fleabane

Photo by Allison Gallo

There's quite a buzz about bees at the moment, as the long campaign for protection under the Endangered Species Act for the rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) has finally met with success. Of course, the effort to ensure the recovery of the species is only just getting underway, but the Fish and Wildlife Service listing is a very significant step that will benefit not only this species, but also all the many other pollinators that share its habitat.

There are over 450 species of bees native to the Mid-Atlantic/Northeastern United States and they are among the most important pollinators of flowering plants. Non-parasitic bees visit flowers to find nectar and pollen, which they collect or consume for regurgitation to provide nourishment for their grubs. Most female bees collect pollen on scopae (latin for broom), a dense mass of elongated hairs, usually on the hind leg or abdomen. Bees with scopae on their abdomen will typically land belly-first on a flower. Bumble bees and the non-native honey bee have pollen baskets or corbicula (latin for basket), which are easily visible appendages that form a cavity that the bee sweeps pollen into. As the bees visit multiple flowers some pollen will fall off, assisting with the flower's pollination.

Unfortunately, very few of us will be lucky enough to see the rusty patched bumble bee as bee numbers in general are in decline, along with many other pollinators, through loss of habitat, use of pesticides, and other threats. Here are some simple steps that we can take to provide food and habitat for bees (and all sorts of other critters too).

1. Plant a variety of shrubs and perennials that will provide pollen and nectar throughout the season, making your selection based on available light and moisture.

Spring: A number of spring ephemerals and early flowering shrubs are critical to various species of Specialist bees. Spring Beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), Trout Lily, (*Erythronium americanum*), and Common Violets (*Viola sororia*) all have their own Specialist bees, as do Redbud trees (*Cercis canadensis*). Generalist bees will benefit too from Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) and Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*).

Summer: All the familiar plants that we plant for butterflies will benefit the 80% of bee species that are generalists. Favorites include Milkweeds (*Asclepias* sp.), Brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia* sp.), and Bee Balms (*Monarda* sp.). Significant shrubs include Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*).

Fall: Asters (*Symphyotrichum* sp.), Goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.), and Woodland Sunflower (*Helianthus divaricatus*) will provide late season sustenance.

2. Leave some "untidy places" for nest sites and over-wintering spots.

About 70% of native bees, including the charismatic bumble bees, nest underground and need undisturbed and uncompacted bare dirt.

The remaining 30% use cavities – carpenter bees may excavate new cavities, while mason bees will reuse beetle larvae holes in a snag or other small, protected cavities.

3. Leave pithy shrub and perennial stems and leaf litter undisturbed through the winter to protect cavity nesters.

4. Avoid using pesticides, especially during the months when bees are active.





### 5. Provide a source of water.

With the renewed interest in native bees, there are many excellent resources available if you are interested in managing your property for bees and other Wildlife.

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Audubon at Home – contact Ann Garvey at [agarvey@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:agarvey@loudounwildlife.org)

Xerxes Society for Invertebrate Conservation: [www.XERCES.org](http://www.XERCES.org)

Heather Holm, *Pollinators of Native Plants: Attract, Observe and Identify Pollinators and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants* (Pollination Press, 2014)



Common Eastern Bumblebee  
on Joe Pye Weed  
Photo by Allison Gallo



Bee performing pollinator duties  
on Mountain Mint  
Photo by Allison Gallo

## Golden Groundsel or Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)

by Julie Borneman – Watermark Woods

It seems like every plant association has a plant of the year. As native plants grow in popularity, it is only a matter of time until someone chooses *Packera aurea*. This 6-12 inch shade lover is a workhorse groundcover.

The former Latin name for this plant was *Senecio aureus*. *Senecio* means “old man”. Legend has it that the plant’s fluffy, white seed heads reminded a botanist of his grandfather’s head of wispy, white hair. The suggestion stuck and thus golden groundsel is forever stuck with the moniker “Old Man”. However, golden groundsel is quite the opposite of frail or gumpy.

Golden groundsel has broad shiny basal leaves with a purple underside. In late spring, they send up a mostly bare shoot that is covered in golden daisy-like flowers from April thru June. Planted as a patch, it seemingly glows in a shady area. *Packera* is even semi-evergreen, which is always desirable. It is a nice companion plant for the late-summer-blooming wood asters *Eurybia divaricata* and *Symphotrichum cordifolium*.

Golden groundsel also has great value for wildlife habitat. In addition to cover for insects (like the firefly) and other wildlife, *Packera* is a great nectar source for small bees, and is known to be beneficial to almost 20 species of butterflies and moths. As an added bonus, deer don’t touch it.

Consistently moist soil is a must, and if planted in full sun it will appreciate some extra moisture. When you look at a plant tag and it says “full sun to full shade,” then you know there must be a spot for it in your garden. *Packera aurea* will spread, which is what we want in a groundcover. It self-seeds and naturalizes via rhizomes. Put it somewhere it can spread out and do its job.

Already have some *Packera* and want to share with your friends? It is best to divide the plants in very early Spring. In mid-March, get out your shovel to dig, divide, and disperse. Collecting the seeds is also a simple means of propagation. Collect the seeds in fall, scratch up the dirt in your selected site, sprinkle the seeds, and lightly cover with soil. Next spring you should have plenty of seedlings emerging. Golden groundsel is also commercially available so if you do not have a source for free plants or patience for seeds, many nurseries will have it in stock.

If you are not sold on golden groundsel yet, several sources claim it will even out-compete garlic mustard! It should earn plant of the year on that quality alone. While *Packera aurea* may not have a place in every garden, if you have space for golden groundsel, this unsung hero deserves that space.

### Resources

- Ketzle Levine’s talking plants: <http://www.npr.org/programs/talkingplants/profiles/senecio.html>
- <https://www.nps.gov/plants/pubs/chesapeake/pdf/chesapeake natives.pdf>
- <http://mtcubacenter.org/plants/golden-ragwort/>
- [www.plants.usda.gov](http://www.plants.usda.gov)
- <http://www.vaplanatlas.org>



Ragwort in bloom  
Photo by Sharon Plummer



Ragwort going to fluff and seeds  
Photo by Sharon Plummer



*Dulles Greenway Wetlands  
Photo by Nicole Sudduth*

## 12th Annual Drive for Charity was Another Success!

*by Nicole Sudduth*

The Dulles Greenway Drive for Charity was another amazing success this year, bringing in a total of \$348,000. These funds are distributed to six local nonprofits and a scholarship program that reaches every high school in Loudoun. Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy received \$52,000 from this event, so we send a big thank you to all of you who took the Dulles Greenway on May 18th for your commute. It really made a difference!

This was the 12th year that Loudoun Wildlife received funds from this event, and it has been a real game changer for us. Over the years, these funds have enabled us to develop and produce the Field Guide to the Butterflies of Loudoun, coordinate numerous Habitat Restoration projects like those at the Phillips Farm in Waterford, create and run our amphibian programs, and restore the vernal pools at Morven Park.

In addition to being a key funding stream for our overall work, the Drive for Charity funds helped us launch and sustain our Monarch Butterfly campaign which has reached thousands of people across the area and helped us donate milkweed plants to 46 Loudoun schools to establish Monarch waystations for students and teachers to use.

It also enabled us to further expand our youth and family programs which today offer monthly events across the county. These programs reach children at all ages with educational opportunities that range from bats and their lifecycles to insect life in local streams and what they tell us about water quality, to scout projects to seed bomb with local native wildflowers.

The Dulles Greenway Toll Road Investor Partnership II (TRIP II) also maintains the Dulles Greenway wetlands. For those of you who have come out with us on field trips to these wetlands, you know how incredibly special this place is. It's because of the continued stewardship by the Dulles Greenway TRIP II that these wetlands thrive, and species of all sorts have a large and robust healthy habitat that is their own.

We give our thanks to the Dulles Greenway TRIP II for their generosity. Over the last 12 years, they have donated \$3 million to local charities and scholarships and we know those funds have made a real difference in our community.



*Some of the Youth Programs from 2017 that have benefitted from the Dulles Greenway TRIP II donations  
Photos by Sarah Steadman*





# Nooks and Crannies - A Place for Families

Written by and for youth and families, this feature shines a light on the exciting perspective of our young nature stewards with an eye for things unseen, residing in the Nooks and Crannies of our environment. This issue's contributor is 16-year old sophomore Melissa Abel of South Riding with an inspiring personal journey and habitat restoration effort.

## From Passion to Action: My Effort to Help the Eastern Bluebird

by Melissa Abel



*Melissa Abel (right of the nestbox) with volunteers installing a Bluebird trail*  
*Photos by Julie Abel*

I've long had a passion for the environment and helping animals in need, and as a Girl Scout for 11 years, I knew my passion would help me complete my Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn, which requires a minimum of an 80-hour service project that leaves a lasting impact on the community. So when it came time for me to design a project for this effort, I had no trouble deciding to focus on helping a native animal in need. I chose specifically to help the Eastern Bluebird, a species that has faced massive challenges due to human development and deforestation. I reached out to J. Michael Lunsford Middle School in South Riding, Virginia. The school had an existing Bluebird nest box, and their Green Team, a student and parent group supporting the school with environmental and beautification efforts, had been hoping to install more. For my Gold Award project, I worked with my Girl Scout troop (6721)

and members from the Loving Paws Club at Freedom High School to install new Bluebird boxes and register the school as an official Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy nest box trail. I was trained as a Bluebird monitor for Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and have been monitoring the trail since its installation. There are several species of native birds other than Bluebirds that also need the nest boxes for shelter, and in just the first two months of this spring, three nest boxes at Lunsford have become home to 18 baby birds from native cavity-nesters including Chickadees, Tufted Titmouse, and Tree Swallows.

While I am excited about the birds utilizing the nest boxes, I am even more inspired about the larger part of my project: the opportunity to educate students at the middle school about the Eastern Bluebird, habitats, and citizen science. Over the course of two days this spring, I gave interactive presentations to a total of 1,200 middle school students! Through these presentations, I was successful in raising awareness about the Bluebird and the importance of bird monitoring. Before my presentation, only 36% of the students surveyed could correctly identify an Eastern Bluebird. This raised great concerns for me since it won't be long before my generation is in charge of decisions regarding the environment and native species like the Bluebird. I think it is extremely important to involve young people in conservation efforts so that we are prepared to promote a healthy future for our planet. I am hopeful that my project will inspire more young people to take action and become involved in the efforts of organizations like the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, which enable our planet and wildlife to flourish and grow.

Visit <https://loudounwildlife.org/citizen-science/> to learn more about our Bluebird monitoring program and other citizen science efforts.

Have a wildlife perspective, poem, photo, or craft to share? Loudoun's K-12 youth contributors can contact Sarah Steadman at [ssteadman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:ssteadman@loudounwildlife.org).





# Programs and Field Trips



*Space is limited for many of these programs and field trips. For up-to-date information on our programs and to sign up, visit our website at [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org). Unless otherwise specified, contact [info@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:info@loudounwildlife.org) with questions.*

**Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board Meeting** — The Board typically meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All Loudoun Wildlife members are welcome. **Contact Nicole Sudduth at [nsudduth@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:nsudduth@loudounwildlife.org) for additional information.**

**Let's Go Jump in a Creek: What Lives in the Streams? — Saturday, July 8, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Go jump in a creek...with us! This will be at Catocin Creek at Taylorstown Bridge. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to explore the requirements of healthy streams by getting into the creek to search and sweep for macro-invertebrates. The inhabitants of a stream can tell us SO much about the health of the water and habitat. Limit: 15 children, ages 7+; no infants, strollers, or pets. NOTE: All youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Full Moon Nature Walk — Saturday, July 8, 8:30 p.m., Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship.** Have you ever wanted to discover nature under the magical glow of the full moon? This is your chance to enjoy the peace and serenity of the

environment around BRCES and experience what the animals that live in the area see at night. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a full moon hike and see firsthand how animals and insects thrive at night. This will be a relatively easy walk during which we will explore any interesting sights and sounds we find along the trail. We will enjoy a beautiful time to be out of doors in this magnificent setting. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**"We're Going Wild" Family Nature Walk: Insect Safari! — Sunday, July 16, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Algonkian Regional Park.** WHAT IS THAT BUG? This Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy morning walk will explore discoveries in the micro-world of insects at one of their busiest times of day! Local entomologist Ed Clark of the USDA will lead a hands-on investigation into the secret lives of insects that flit, buzz and crawl about in summer. Come dressed for an outdoor adventure. Limit: 20 children, ages 7+; no strollers or pets. NOTE: All youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Scouts welcome. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Butterflies & Peaches at Great Country Farms — Saturday and Sunday, July 29 & 30.** The most recognizable of all butterflies needs our HELP! The Monarch butterfly's population has diminished drastically due to, among other factors, the eradication of milkweed and other plants crucial to their habitat. Bring the family for peach picking and Monarch education, and take action to bring their habitat back. Visit the butterfly garden and learn about the plants Monarchs need to survive, and how you can help restore habitat in your community. Buy some milkweed to take home to plant and start helping Monarchs today! **For more information visit <http://greatcountryfarms.com>.**

**An Evening of Haiku in the Garden: A Youth Writing Workshop — Sunday, July 30, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Master Gardeners Garden at Ida Lee Park.** Local children's literature author Maria Gianferrari (<http://mariagianferrari.com/books>) talks about her upcoming book Whooo-Ku, and leads a Haiku writing experience at this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy-sponsored event. We will sit outdoors and tap into our senses to hear, see, smell, feel, and experience the natural world around us and create poetry that embraces the moment. After the event, the Haikus will be posted on our blog (optional)! Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, and we'll provide you with a journal and writing tools. Limit: 25 children ages 5+; no strollers or pets. NOTE: All youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Scouts welcome. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**



## Birding the Blue Ridge Center

**J**oin us on the monthly bird walk at the **Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES)**, a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes diverse wildlife habitats, including meadows, streams, and heavily forested slopes. **Meet** at the Education Center; bring binoculars if you have them. BRCES is located just north of Neersville at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671); detailed directions at [www.brces.org](http://www.brces.org). **Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org).**

**Fourth Saturdays: July 22, August 26, and September 23 at 8:00 a.m.**

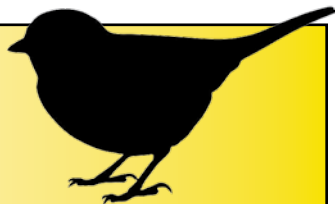


**Let's Count Butterflies! — Saturday, August 5, 9:00 a.m.** It's time for Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 21st Annual Butterfly Count! Come and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. You will visit locations that include butterfly gardens, sanctuaries, roadside wildflower areas and parks. We typically count over 2,000 butterflies in this single day and spot as many as 50 species. Our count circle stretches from White's Ferry in the east to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center in the west and south to Lincoln. No experience necessary, all ages welcome – you will be teamed with experienced leaders. There's a \$3 fee per adult that we pass through to the North American Butterfly Association, waived for Loudoun Wildlife members as a member benefit. No fee for those under 18. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Family-Friendly Nature Event: The Magic of Moths! Saturday, August 12, 8:00 – 10:00 p.m., Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (Rain date August 19).** Discover why moths constitute about 90% of all the Lepidoptera on the planet: not bad for a group of animals that flew with the dinosaurs! Join Dr. David Adamski and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to review and explore the most common moth families found in the Capital Region. After sunset, he'll help us identify the moths that are attracted to his blacklight set up on the wooded grounds. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy at the Lucketts Fair — Saturday and Sunday, August 19 & 20, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Visit our booth at the Lucketts Fair, where we'll be showcasing the wonderful array of wildlife found in our county and the importance of saving habitat. The booth will feature hands-on displays, informational materials promoting our programs, and nature-themed merchandise for purchase. For more information about the fair, which is held annually on the grounds of the Lucketts Community Center, visit <http://theluckettsfair.com>. **Questions: Contact Kelly Senser at [ksenser@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:ksenser@loudounwildlife.org).**

## Birding Banshee



**J**oin Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for the monthly bird walk at the **Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve** south of Leesburg. Because of its rich and varied habitat, it is a birding hot spot. Bring binoculars if you have them. **Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or [jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org).**

**Second Saturdays: July 8, August 12, and September 9 at 8:00 a.m.**

## Exploring Loudoun Nature Walk Series

**J**oin Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free nature walk at various locations throughout Loudoun County. The walks will cover a wide variety of topics including native woodlands, wetlands, birds, seasonal changes, as well as a variety of other topics. Check our website for more details. If you own binoculars, please bring them. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**



**First Sundays: July 2, August 6, September 3, and October 1 at 8:00 a.m.**

**"We're Going Wild" Family Nature Walk: Birding with Kids — Saturday, August 19, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Bles Park in Ashburn.** Do you hear what I hear? Do you see what I see? Bring the kids on this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy-sponsored walk and learn to ID our county's many beautiful birds on the wing and by their songs. We'll bring binoculars and teach you to use them to make birding even more fun. Come dressed for an outdoor adventure. Limit: 20 children, ages 6+; no strollers or pets. NOTE: All youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Scouts welcome. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Birds, Butterflies and Wildflowers — Sunday, September 3, 9:00 a.m., Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship.** Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a family-friendly field trip to see birds, butterflies and wildflowers at this beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County that includes diverse wildlife habitats, including meadows, streams and heavily forested slopes. Meet at the Education Center; bring binoculars if you have them. BRCEs is located just north of Neersville at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Native Plant Sale — Saturday, September 9, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Morven Park.** Each patch of habitat in a native plant garden becomes a collective effort to nurture and sustain the landscape for birds, butterflies, bees and other animals. Restoring native habitat is essential to preserve biodiversity. A Fall planting of natives generally outperforms those installed in the Spring. Root growth in the Fall, when soils are warmer and more aerated, is more extensive, compared to Spring when there is rapid top growth. Three vendors will have a wide variety of native plants



to offer at this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy-sponsored sale: Julie Borneman of Watermark Woods Nursery in Hamilton ([www.watermarkwoods.com](http://www.watermarkwoods.com)); Hill House Farm and Nursery in Castleton ([www.hillhousenativeplants.com](http://www.hillhousenativeplants.com)); and Nature by Design in Alexandria ([www.nature-by-design.com](http://www.nature-by-design.com)). The sale is staffed by volunteers who have knowledge of native plants. To see plants each nursery carries or to place orders ahead of time (all nursery stock is not present), visit their websites. **Questions: Contact Danielle Dillion at [ddillion@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:ddillion@loudounwildlife.org).**

**Migratory Birds and Nature Walk — Sunday, September 17, 9:00 a.m., Willowsford.** Birds are a priceless part of our heritage. They are not only a delight to observe, identify and photograph, but they also serve as bellwethers of our natural and cultural health. Join Larry Meade and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a family-friendly field trip to observe migratory birds and discuss some of the threats they face today. In addition, we will observe and discuss butterflies and dragonflies that we find along the walk. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

**Sunset Snapshots: A Youth Photography Workshop — Date TBA, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Morven Park.** It's amazing what you can see when staring through the eye of a camera. Do you have a young photographer at home who wants to learn some tricks of the trade? Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and National Geographic wildlife photographer Jeff Mauritzen on a summer sunset walk while he teaches young photographers about perspective and how to best compose a quick photograph of various subjects in a variety of landscapes and light. Kids should bring only a camera they can use on their own with ease... this is a beginner's class, so it's all about getting a good shot on an everyday camera or smart device. Limit: 15 children, ages 8+; no strollers or pets. NOTE: All youth under age 18 must be accompanied by a legal guardian. Scouts welcome. **Registration required: Sign Up Online.**

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

## Annual Meeting 2017

Sunday, June 10, we held our 23rd Annual Meeting! T'ai Roulston gave a fascinating talk on native bees and Maria Gianferrari gave both a short talk on coyotes and a reading from her children's book, *Coyote Moon*. Following a short business meeting, Joe Coleman presented Sarah Steadman with our 2016 Volunteer of the Year award and recognized Jill Miller, Katherine Daniels and Bill Brown for their service on our Board. Sarah then presented the Science Fair awards and Mimi Westervelt presented the Roger Tory Peterson awards. It was wonderful to see both familiar faces and new! Looking forward to seeing you out along the trails loving the wildlife and wild places of Loudoun!

*Jordan Davis explaining her project  
Photo by Nicole Sudduth*



*Jill Miller receiving her gift  
from Joe Coleman  
Photo by Nicole Sudduth*



*Jordan Davis receiving her award  
Photo by Nicole Sudduth*



*Attendees to Annual Meeting 2017  
Photo by Nicole Sudduth*





# A Salute to Sarah Steadman *by Kelly Senser*

Families, scouts, public school students, and homeschoolers have all benefited from the efforts of Sarah Steadman, who was recently recognized as Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's Volunteer of the Year. Her work coordinating the organization's youth and family programs yielded dozens of diverse offerings in 2016, ranging from classroom presentations to guided outdoor adventures. Whether a first-time experience for participants or a return to a favorite pastime, activities such as wading through creek waters to identify macroinvertebrates and looking through binoculars to identify a bird on the wing were each presented with the same goal in mind: to foster an enduring love of the natural world.

Because of her contributions, more than 1,200 people (and counting!) have "learned to love, protect, and advocate for wildlife and their habitats," says Joe Coleman, Loudoun Wildlife's board president. "Regardless of the challenges she faces, Sarah consistently sees the big picture, thinks about the needs of our youth and families to connect with nature, and works out ways and finds people to make those opportunities available."

Following is more about the honoree in her own words:

## ***When did you first begin volunteering?***

It all started in 2013 when my son Carter became interested in the Monarch Butterfly. We found Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, learned of their monarch conservation efforts, and started attending programs. It seems as soon as we found the organization, my family started volunteering at booth events and information fairs, meetings, and library programs. After two years of being involved in a variety of exciting projects, I was ready to do more. In 2015, I was invited to join the Board of Directors and take on the role of Youth and Family Programs Coordinator. Since then, it's continued to be deeply fulfilling, educational, and exciting.



*Sarah Steadman (middle) with Nicole Sudduth (left) and Joe Coleman (right) at the annual meeting, where Sarah received her award.*

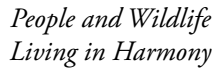
## ***What drew you to youth programs?***

Most people who meet me understand very quickly that I am fascinated by the natural world and its many creatures. As a lifelong educator, expressing that curiosity in environmental education continues to grow as a passion. It makes me good company around children who tend to match or exceed my own excitement and curiosity. Creating interesting and meaningful environmental education programs for this organization makes me very happy. The beneficiaries of my efforts are children who spend the day getting eye-to-eye with wildlife; students who learn to observe, research, and protect their natural world; teachers who—like me—are seeking ways to meaningfully engage their students; and families who bond through adventures in learning together about their wildlife neighbors. I really love seeing that spark of advocacy in young people when they learn about the fragility of the owl, the frogs, the monarch, the bluebird, or their deforested habitats. They inspire me and compel me to learn more and pass it on.

Visit [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org) to view upcoming programs and find out how you can volunteer.

## Volunteer Position Open

**Webmaster** – Use your Internet skills to support Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy! We're currently seeking a volunteer to help maintain our website by posting content on a regular basis. Working knowledge of HTML and WordPress preferred. Please contact Kelly Senser at [ksenser@loudounwildlife.org](mailto:ksenser@loudounwildlife.org) to learn more about this opportunity.



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