



Habitat Herald

A Publication of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

Volume XI, Issue 2

Summer 2006

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www.loudounwildlife.org

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Weavers of the Web: Spiders

by Nicole Hamilton

"On foggy mornings, Charlotte's web was truly a thing of beauty. This morning each thin strand was decorated with dozens of tiny beads of water. The web glistened in the light and made a pattern of loveliness and mystery like a delicate veil."

—E.B. White



In our gardens, forests, grassy fields, and homes, spiders are active: spinning their webs, hunting their prey and quietly playing their role in the ecosystem. There are over 38,000 known species of spiders worldwide, compared with just 4,000 species of mammals. Spiders are varied in their colors and sizes and most have eight eyes, but they all have eight legs and share the special ability to spin silk. Their eyes are singular, rather than compound as in many insects. The main pair of eyes are the middle pair. All spiders are carnivorous, and they use a variety of methods to catch their prey. Approximately fifty percent of spiders spin webs from their silk and use that as means to catch prey, while others use ambush techniques, as well as snares and traps.

Spiders are arachnids, not insects. Insects have three body parts and six legs, while spiders have two body parts and eight legs. There are two basic types of spiders, those that build webs and those that wander. Some live under ground in tunnels, others live on plants, and still others live in and around our homes. To produce their silk, spiders have special glands called spinnerets located at the rear of their abdomen. Spider silk is a thick liquid that hardens as soon as it is pulled out of the spinneret. However, spiders can also make different types of silk depending on their need at

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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 the first Tuesday of each month. Board meetings are open to all current members. For more information, or to suggest topics for discussion at upcoming meetings, contact Nicole Hamilton.

You can also visit us at:

www.loudounwildlife.org

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A Word from the President

by Nicole Hamilton

I just had one of the best weekends so far this year.....four nature/bird walks in three days with wonderful friends from LWC. There is nothing like the discovery we experience when we go on a walk in the woods or fields or visit wetlands – everything so alive with voices and movement, smells and colors, textures and varied terrain. When we go for a walk, we never know what we may see. It's all up to nature, and what she will reveal, and what we will notice. We may anticipate a certain plant or wildflower because we've seen it there before, but it may be different – in blossom, in seed, eaten to the ground, draped with a spider web. We may know of an eagle's nest where we can steal a view of the nestlings, but the show they put on as mom or dad fly in with lunch is unscripted. It is this unknown that draws so many of us out to the woods and into the fields; and it is this discovery that gives us such energy.

Another thing I love about our walks is the companionship and openness to discovery that we share during these times. On any given walk, we may have people who are expert birders who can teach us about the calls or colors of a particular bird, or an insect enthusiast who may point out some incredible iridescent green beetle, or an observer of wild flowers and plants who can answer the question, "What's that?" We teach each other. We share our stories. We discover and wonder, and our senses come alive.

As the weekend came to a close, I was tired from this marathon but in such a satisfied, contented way. I reflected on the walks and all we shared: king fishers diving; orioles nesting; ghost flowers emerging from the leaf litter; a black snake curved around a snag; egg shells of a wild turkey with a

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female wild turkey not far off; toads hopping beside us as we walked the trail. The living stories we encountered over these days were fantastic, and they showed me again the interconnectedness of all life.

For those who haven't been on one of our nature walks or field trips, I hope you'll join us sometime soon. This is our time to get out into the field, to explore, engage, wonder, learn and share — passing our knowledge on to each other, spreading our enthusiasm and appreciation for nature, and celebrating the Great Spirit that is so alive around us.

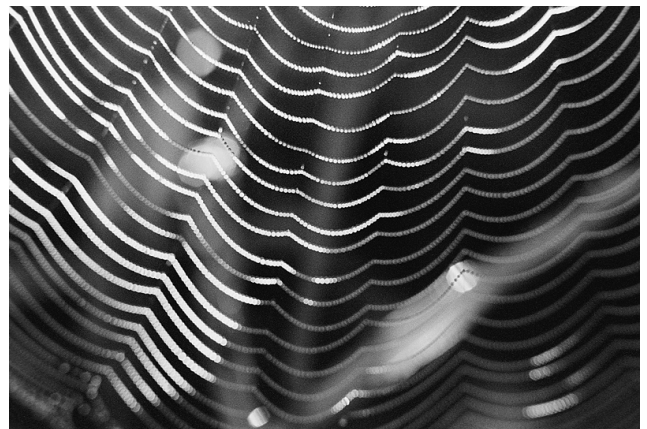
Nicole

Spiders...*continued from page 1*

the time. Spiders use their silk to create webs (if they are a web-making spider), catch prey, store food, escape from danger, make egg sacs and nurseries, create hibernation areas to survive cold winters, and communicate through vibration signals that they send on the silk strands. Baby spiders, known as spiderlings, use their silk as a mode of transportation called "ballooning". In ballooning, the spiderlings float through the air on a strand of silk in search of new territories.

Let's explore a few of our different kinds of spiders and the techniques they use to hunt and trap prey:

Orb-weaving spiders: Orbs are one of our most recognizable webs. Whether draped between plants in our garden, cast within tall grasses, or stretched across a forest path, we often encounter these amazing constructions. Orb webs offer an effective means of catching prey. Although producing silk is energy intensive, the structure of this web is very efficient because it maximizes the surface area covered. Orb webs are often built in less than an hour and may be rebuilt daily. With orb webs, threads of dry silk are extended from a center point like the spokes in a bike wheel. These threads are not sticky, but sticky silk threads are added to connect the spokes and serve as the net to catch the insects that hit the web. These sticky threads are laid in a spiral pattern, sometimes as one continuous thread. After the web is set, the spider waits with its feet on the silk, feeling for the vibrations of caught prey. Some wait in the middle of the orb, while others wait at the edge along a trap line. These spiders do not have good eyesight, yet they build beautiful webs. Spiders that make orb webs hatch in the springtime. After dispersing from its mother, the spiderling begins to hunt on its own and builds a small web. As the summer pushes on and the spider hones its web-weaving skills, the webs become larger. Orb webs are most abundant in late summer when the females have reached their peak maturity, and their webs reach peak diameter.



Funnel-weaving spiders: Funnel-weaving spiders are often found in our lawns. Their flat webs are found suspended in the grass looking like hammocks, but if you look closely, you will see a narrow silken funnel. This is the spider's retreat while it waits for prey. The threads of this web are not sticky. The best known spiders for making these webs are in the family Agelenidae.

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Wolf spiders: These spiders do not weave webs. They hunt along the ground or in our basements looking for prey. An interesting characteristic of this spider is its eye arrangement. While most spiders have eight small eyes, wolf spiders have two very large eyes and six smaller ones. Their vision is far better than that of other spiders, which is needed since they do not use a web to catch prey. The female wolf spider carries her egg sac with her while hunting, and when her babies hatch, she carries them on her back. Wolf spiderlings stay with their mother for about a week after hatching. The mother will stay in hiding for much of this period because her babies are vulnerable and growing during this time.



Crab spiders: Crab spiders are often found in flowers, awaiting an unsuspecting butterfly, moth or fly to land and feed on nectar. They do not build webs but instead use the flower as its lair and its body as camouflage. Crab spiders are often colorful; ranging from pinks to greens to yellows and white, some can change their colors to match the flower that they are in.

Jumping spiders: These spiders are relatively small and squat with strong jumping legs. They are most active during the day, hunting for food. They can jump 20 times the length of their own bodies and can even do so mid-air when anchored to a chord of silk. Jumping spiders have excellent eyesight, considered among the sharpest in the invertebrate world. If you look closely at a jumping spider, you can see two of its very large eyes. Male jumping spiders are colorful, often with iridescent scales, spines and tufts of bright hair, while females are more subdued in color.

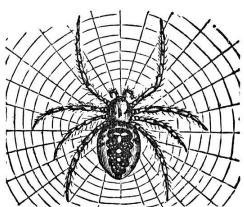
Sheet-web spiders: If you live near the woods and have a grassy area, you will likely see the sheet-web spiders and their webs. These spiders spin thin sheets of silk between blades of grass or branches of shrubs and trees and then build a net of crisscrossing threads above the sheets. They cling to the sheet upside down while waiting for a meal. When an insect flies into the net, the spider runs up to the insect and pulls it through the webbing. These webs last a long time because of the thick sheet constructed. When the spider repairs parts of the web, the sheet becomes even thicker.

Spitting spiders: These spiders only have six eyes. To trap their prey, the spitting spiders shoot their webbing at their target, similar to the comic book hero Spiderman. Unlike our super hero, the spitting spider shoots streams of sticky glue from its jaws, while creating two overlapping nets of silk which trap the prey. This spider is found commonly throughout the world.

Daddy long-legs or Cellar spiders: Daddy long-legs have tiny bodies and very long, thin legs. They are often confused with the harvestman, which is an arachnid but not a true spider. The cellar spiders have long bodies and are common in homes. They build untidy webs in corners and when disturbed, they bounce up and down or whorl in circles which seems to make them almost invisible to predators.

Lifecycle

The lifecycle of a spider is an interesting one. Different spiders mate and hatch at different times of the year, but summer is our most likely time to observe this. About a week after copulation, eggs are produced and fertilized. As she produces the fertilized eggs, the female wraps the tender white balls into a special silk which forms the egg sac. Female spiders are dedicated mothers and can often be seen tending their egg sac, which can hold as many as 300 spiderling eggs. Typically, the egg sac is attached to an edge of the web, but with spiders that roam, like the wolf spider, the female carries the sac along with her in her travels. With cellar spiders, the eggs are wrapped very loosely in a few threads of silk. This spider holds the sac in her jaws as she sits in her cobweb.

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Spiders...*continued from page 4*

All spiderlings are tiny and blind when first born. As they go through their first molt, they develop further and begin to resemble their parents in colors and markings. Gradually, the spiderlings develop their eyes and the ability to spin silk. As they reach their second molt, their fangs develop, and they realize that their siblings make convenient meals. This is often the time when spiderlings start ballooning to search for new territories and to get away from hungry brothers and sisters. Most spiders will go through 3-10 molts, and with their last molt they achieve sexual maturity. Before this final molt, it is difficult to determine the sex of the spider. Most spiders live for one to two years.

Role in the ecosystem

Spiders are incredible hunters that help keep the balance in the insect world. Some scientists have estimated that spiders living in just two and a half acres of land can eat more than 100,000 pounds of prey each year. So, when you see that spider struggling to get out of the bath tub or running behind the couch, consider all the insects around your home or outside that the spider will eat in its one- to two-year lifespan. We should be grateful for these small predators and the important role they play for us.

Spider Watching

It's fun to observe spiders – whether weaving webs, hunting prey or coping with their young. Webs are probably the easiest way to find and watch spiders. Webs are typically constructed in the evening, shortly after dusk. If you have a spider near a window, you may be able to watch the weaving of its web. On a cool morning, when the grass is heavy with dew, put on your boots and go for a walk and look closely at the weavings of different types of webs.

Sources:

Weber, Larry, Spiders of the North Woods

One of the best books on spiders that serves as a field guide to spiders, a source for more information on spiders, their behaviors and their webs, and ideas for observing spiders.

Mason, Adrienne, The World of the Spider

Insect Lore, Garden Spider Webframe



INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SPIDERS – Sunday, September 10, noon – 4:00 p.m. Spiders are ubiquitous creatures in our basements, meadows, and woodlots. While they inspire feelings of fear among many, they are a source of wonderment and mystery to the curious naturalist. Join spider specialist Angel Cheri for an introduction to the natural history and identification of spiders. On this field trip to the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area near Poolesville, MD, we'll search for spiders in a variety of habitats and discuss their life histories, feeding strategies, and adaptations. This program is co-sponsored with the Audubon Naturalist Society. *Pre-registration required: Members (ANS & LWC): \$21; Nonmembers: \$29. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.*

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Volunteers Needed at County Fairs

Want a bird's eye view of the county fairs this summer and fall? You can be a volunteer at the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy booth! We're sponsoring booths at the following fairs:

August 26 - 27, 2006	Lucketts Fair
September 16-17, 2006	Bluemont Fair
October 6-8, 2006	Waterford Fair
Early October 2006	Lovettsville Octoberfest
Mid October 2006	SterlingFest
Late October 2006	Aldie Harvest

These fairs offer a great opportunity to have some fun and meet your neighbors. At the LWC booth, we



Green Business Awards

by Karen Strick

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is excited to roll out its Green Business Award program for 2006! The green business award will recognize businesses in Loudoun County that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in habitat protection. The award serves to encourage corporate environmental stewardship of Loudoun County's wildlife habitat. We hope that the winner of the award will be seen as a role model in the community and that some of the organization's best practices for environmental stewardship will be shared with other businesses. Another benefit of the award will be to promote LWC's efforts as a county leader in environmental stewardship.

There are three criteria that organizations will be required to reflect in order to be a candidate for the award: Education and Outreach to the Community, Impact on Ecosystem, and Ongoing Commitment to Habitat Preservation. Each criterion has a series of performance measures that the organization will be required to meet in order to qualify for the award. All of the requirements are posted in greater detail on the LWC website.



There are a few eligibility requirements for receiving the award:

- The business must operate within Loudoun County.
- The business must generate revenue; non-profits and governmental agencies are not eligible.
- Projects must have made progress during the previous year — for a 2007 award, progress must be made during 2006.
- The recipient of the previous year's award is not eligible.

Any organization can nominate itself using the nominating form posted on the LWC website, or an individual can submit a nomination on behalf of a potential candidate. Nomination forms are due to LWC no later than March 31, 2007. Judging and evaluation will take place during April and will include an on-site visit by the judges to potential awardees.

The Green Business Award will be given on an annual basis with presentation to the winner made at the LWC annual meeting in May. The awardee and runners-up will be featured in *The Habitat Herald* and publicized to local Loudon newspapers.

Join our Postcard Campaign! *It's fast. It's easy. It makes an impact!*

We need to let the Board of Supervisors know that we care about the wildlife and habitat of Loudoun. Some BOS members are more sensitive to the issue than others. But, none can ignore constituent pressure.

Request a postcard kit: We'll mail the kit to you along with instructions and information. The kit contains a set of 7 postcards highlighting different threatened species here in Loudoun and actions that our Board can take to protect them.

Commit to mailing all 7 cards: The volume of cards received by the BOS is critical to our success. If all our cards are successfully mailed, the BOS will receive over 1,800 individual contacts in support of wildlife conservation. You can mail all 7 cards yourself - to various Supervisors or to your own; or, give some of the postcards to friends and neighbors to send.

Take the next Step: Request a postcard kit by emailing your name and address to: info@loudounwildlife.org or call Nicole Hamilton at 540-882-4839.

PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

Space is limited for many of these programs and field trips.

Please call the designated program contact for further information and to reserve your spot.

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETINGS — LWC's Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at ANS's Rust Nature Sanctuary. All LWC members are welcome. Pre-meeting discussion begins at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting itself beginning at 7:30 p.m. *Contact Nicole Hamilton at 540-882-882-4839 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.*

BIRDING BANSHEE — **Saturday, July 8, 8:00 a.m.** Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 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.*

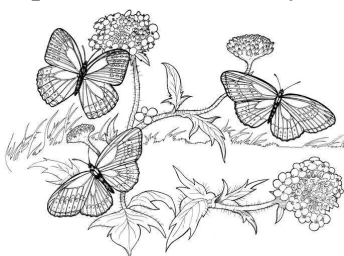
BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT BANSHEE — **Saturday, July 15, 10:30 a.m.** Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for one of our free, family butterfly and dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of Banshee's many diverse natural areas and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*



BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER — **Saturday, July 22, 8:00 a.m.** On the fourth Saturday of each month (except December) the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES). This beautiful 900-acre preserve is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, in northwestern Loudoun County. Only a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, the property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes on the Blue Ridge. Meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:00 a.m. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

SUMMER STREAMSIDE WILDFLOWER WALK AND PICNIC — **Sunday, July 30, 5:00 p.m.** Join Dr. Stan Shetler, Curator of Botany Emeritus at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, on a walk through the MacDowells' rich streamside, wet meadow near Waterford to view the many wildflowers that thrive there in the summer. These include some unusual wild orchids, the only specimens of this species known to bloom in Loudoun County. Since the walk will be followed by a picnic for anyone who wishes to stay, please bring a picnic dinner and folding chairs to sit on. *Sign-up required: Call Karin or Bob MacDowell at 540-882-9000 to sign up and get directions.*

ANNUAL LOUDOUN COUNTY BUTTERFLY COUNT — **Saturday, August 5, 9:00 a.m.** Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on its tenth 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.



Come out and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. Counters will also be visiting butterfly gardens in the area which stretches from White's Ferry in the east, to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in the west, and from Point of Rocks south to Lincoln. This annual, mid-summer count, modeled after Christmas Bird Counts, is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. *For more information or to register and receive directions, contact Nicole Hamilton, 540-882-4839 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.*

BIRDING BANSHEE — **Saturday, August 12, 8:00 a.m.** *See the July 8 listing for details.*

BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT BANSHEE — **Saturday, August 19, 10:30 a.m.** *See the July 15 listing for details.*

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MOTHS AND OTHER MYSTERIOUS CREATURES OF THE NIGHT – Saturday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced on our website at www.loudounwildlife.org. Bob Lyon, who began our Annual Butterfly Count ten years ago, has extensively studied and photographed Loudoun County's moths. Using his extensive collection of photographs, he will highlight the wide variety of moths that populate our area. Afterwards, we will go outside to use a black light and a sheet to attract and identify moths and other mysterious creatures of the night. For more information contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER – Saturday, August 26, 8:00 a.m. See the July 22 listing for details.

LATE SUMMER NATURE WALK NEAR WATERFORD – Saturday, August 26, 5:00 p.m. This late summer walk in the MacDowells' wet meadow along the Catoctin Creek, led by Cliff Fairweather, the Audubon Naturalist Society's Senior Virginia Naturalist, will focus on insects, spiders, galls, and wildflowers. Since the walk will be followed by a picnic for anyone who wishes to stay, please bring a picnic dinner and folding chairs to sit on. *Sign-up required: Call Karin or Bob MacDowell at 540-882-9000 to sign up and get directions.*



WILDFLOWERS, BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS AT THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – Saturday, September 2, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Join Dr. Stan Shetler, Curator of Botany Emeritus at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a general, natural history walk (about three miles long) at this beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. We should see butterflies using the late summer wildflowers as well as early migrating birds. The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. Meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

BIRDING BANSHEE – Saturday, September 9, 8:00 a.m. See the July 8 listing for details.

INTRODUCTION TO THE NATURAL HISTORY OF SPIDERS – Sunday, September 10, noon – 4:00 p.m. Spiders are ubiquitous creatures in our basements, meadows, and woodlots. While they inspire feelings of fear among many, they are a source of wonderment and mystery to the curious naturalist. Join spider specialist Angel Cheri for an introduction to the natural history and identification of spiders. On this field trip to the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area near Poolesville, MD, we'll search for spiders in a variety of habitats and discuss their life histories, feeding strategies, and adaptations. This program is co-sponsored with the Audubon Naturalist Society. *Pre-registration required: Members (ANS & LWC): \$21; Nonmembers: \$29. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.*

BEARS: OUR NEW NEIGHBORS – Location and the exact date in September to be



announced. Every year more and more of us have the pleasure of seeing bears in Loudoun County. Not only have bears become a common occurrence in Loudoun County in the Blue Ridge Mountains, they occasionally wander into the rest of the county and visit our yards. While some of us find these sightings exciting, others react with fear. John Rohm, of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, will describe the natural history of bears and explain how you can avoid conflicts with them when they visit. The date and time of this September program will be listed on our website at www.loudounwildlife.org.

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BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT BANSHEE – Saturday, September 16, 10:30 a.m.

Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for our last free, family butterfly and dragonfly walk of this season. When the weather cooperates, a walk this time of year can be most rewarding as we investigate some of Banshee's many diverse natural areas and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. In September, Banshee's meadows of goldenrod can be filled with Monarchs as well as some of the short-distance migrants that visit our area. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER – Saturday, September 23, 8:00 a.m. *See the July 22 listing for details.*

BENTHIC MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION I – Sunday, October 8, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Classroom Session) Benthic macro-invertebrates (bottom-dwelling boneless creatures) are important indicators of stream health. Learn how to identify these fascinating creatures and what they tell us about our own backyards. *Sign-up for this free class is required: Call Cliff Fairweather at 703-737-0021 to sign up.*

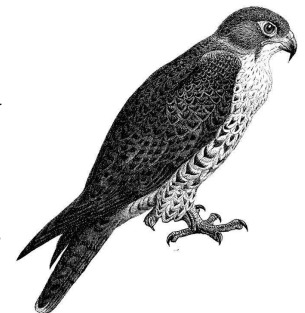
BIRDING BANSHEE – Saturday, October 14, 8:00 a.m. *See the July 8 listing for details.*

BENTHIC MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION I – Sunday, October 22, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. (Field Session) Benthic macro-invertebrates (bottom-dwelling boneless creatures) are important indicators of stream health. Join us at a local stream to learn how to identify these fascinating creatures and what they tell us about water quality in our own backyards. *Sign-up for this free field session is required: Call Cliff Fairweather at 703-737-0021 to sign up.*

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER – Saturday, October 28, 8:00 a.m. *See the July 22 listing for details.*

BENTHIC MACRO-INVERTEBRATE MONITORING PROTOCOL PRACTICUM – Sunday, October 29, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Benthic macro-invertebrates (bottom-dwelling boneless creatures) are important indicators of stream health. Master the skills of habitat assessment and fine-tune your techniques for capturing stream organisms. Learn how to identify these fascinating creatures and the specific collecting methodology used in our Water Quality Monitoring Program. *Sign-up for this free session is required: Call Cliff Fairweather at 703-737-0021 to sign up.*

IDENTIFYING HAWKS: A CLASS AND FIELD TRIP TO WAGGONER'S GAP, PA. *Dates and times to be announced on our website at www.loudounwildlife.org.* Each fall hawks migrate south along the Blue Ridge. On Saturday, November 4, Liam McGranaghan, an experienced falconer, licensed bander of raptors, and educator, will lead a field trip to Waggoner's Gap in PA, about a 2.5 hour drive from here. Waggoner's Gap is one of the premier hawk watching sites in our area, and if the weather cooperates, we should see a wide diversity of birds of prey. Earlier in the week Liam will teach an evening class on how to identify hawks and other birds of prey in the field. While the field trip will be free and one doesn't need to take the class to go on the field trip, there is a fee of \$10 (\$15 for non-members) for the class and priority for the field trip will be given to those taking the class. *Registration is required (\$10/members or \$15/non-member fee for the class) – contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org or Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org to sign up.*



Questions about the above programs –
contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.
For up-to-date information on our programs check our web site at www.loudounwildlife.org.

Annual Meeting

by Elizabeth Evans
and Bertie Murphy

The LWC Annual Membership Meeting was held on May 21, 2006 at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary. Highlights of the meeting included:

- guest speaker, David Whitehurst, Director of the Division of Wildlife Diversity in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries;
- exciting raffles, including a wonderful weekend in the Shenandoah Mountains, a plane ride over Loudoun, a pass to Ida Lee Park, and many more wonderful prizes;
- Science Fair displays featuring our local high school Science Fair winners;
- a live display of threatened wood turtles;
- volunteer Awards to two outstanding LWC members: Phil Daley and Leslie McCasker;
- a fun book exchange;
- and a tantalizing array of refreshments.

Our president, Nicole Hamilton, gave a brief report on LWC's successes over the past year. She also presented the slate of nominations for the upcoming term which was approved unanimously by the membership. Our newly elected officers are:

President:	Nicole Hamilton
Vice President:	Joe Coleman
Treasurer:	Mike Freidman
Secretary:	Elizabeth Evans

Joe Coleman discussed the highlights of the International Migratory Bird Day Survey and Birdathon. The theme of the day was "The Boreal Forest, Bird Nursery of the North," because the boreal forest habitat is very threatened, and, as a consequence, some bird populations are decreasing. LWC sponsored walks during International Migratory Day to help focus attention on the importance of habitat for birds all along their migratory paths, which are international. Approximately 135 different species were identified in Loudoun County.

Phil Daley presented LWC's awards to the winners of the Loudoun County Science Fair (*see page 11 for the details*). Nathan Latka, Loudoun County High School, received first place; Samantha Owens, Freedom High School, received second place; and Ian Claar, Heritage High School, also received a second place prize. Phil also recognized the Girl Scouts for their help with a riparian repair project which involved planting 300 trees. Lastly, Phil presented an Honorary Membership to Liam McGranahan in recognition of his contributions leading field trips and helping LWC with its educational mission over the past years.

In recognition of member volunteerism, this year's awardees — Phil Daley and Leslie McCasker — were presented with handsome engraved boxes inlaid with ceramic tile designed by local artist Joan Gardiner and bearing the LWC logo and the words "Outstanding Volunteer 2005".

Our guest speaker David Whitehurst, from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, spoke about Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan. The objective of the plan is to marshal resources across the state to protect species from decline. Mr. Whitehurst believes his agency will be able to provide resources needed by citizen groups to protect habitat. The DGIF will ask Congress to fund the Wildlife Action Plan so that the agency can successfully accomplish its mission.

Attendance at this year's annual meeting was higher than ever and demonstrated the membership's commitment to LWC and all the organization is accomplishing and hopes to accomplish in the future.



Loudoun Science Fair

by Darrell Schwalm

Loudoun County Public Schools held their 2006 Science Fair on March 16 at Heritage High School. Phil Daley, Linda Schlosser, and Darrell Schwalm attended as special judges to award three cash prizes sponsored by LWC. LWC supports the Science Fair because we recognize that the future health of our environment will someday be in the hands of today's youth. We want to support, encourage, and applaud young people who recognize the importance of this trust that they will hold.

The LWC judges reviewed approximately 20 projects related to wildlife habitat, water quality, and stream health. The projects were judged on their creativity, scientific thought, and thoroughness; and the presenters were judged on their skill and the clarity of their presentation. Three projects were chosen to receive LWC's cash awards.

1st Place recipient of a cash award of \$250 — Nathan Latka, Loudoun County High School, for his project, *"The Effects Wetlands have on Waterways Flooding Frequency."* Nathan studied 15 small drainages with varying acres of wetlands. He compared stream-flow data with the number of times each drainage reached flooding levels over a two-year period. He found that as the acres of wetlands increased in the drainage, the number of flooding flows decreased. His project showed creativity in addressing a key component to healthy streams — wetlands. The judges were particularly impressed with his knowledge of the issue, the clarity of his discussion of the project, and its application to real world concerns. The high level of residential developments in Loudoun County and the resulting increase in impervious surfaces and storm-water runoff are important community issues. Nathan's research demonstrates the type of educational materials that can be developed to help address this need.

2nd Place recipient of a cash award of \$125 — Samantha Owens, Freedom High School, for her project, *"Effects of Waste Removal Sites on Nearby Communities."* Samantha studied well-water quality around a solid waste disposal site in Culpepper, VA. Well water was sampled from 45 wells located at varying distances from the waste disposal site. The samples were analyzed for nitrates, nitrites, iron, alkalinity, pH, and hardness. She found that nitrate levels and pH were higher in wells close to the disposal site. Her results suggested that the waste disposal site was degrading the ground water in the adjacent residential areas. The judges thought the project showed creativity in researching an issue that is an important problem in communities that are being built near sites with toxic materials. Ground water is exposed to many sources of pollution, and public vigilance is important if proper protection of our drinking water is to be provided. The judges were impressed with Samantha's level of knowledge of the issue, the effort she put in collecting her data, the clarity of her discussion of the project, and its application to real world concerns. She showed a level of concern and awareness of environmental issues not often found in high-school youth.

2nd Place recipient of a cash award of \$125 — Ian Claar, Heritage High School, for his project, *"The Effects of Urbanization on Tuscarora Creek."* Ian studied three sites along Tuscarora Creek over a seven-month period. He collected 27 sets of samples for various physical, chemical, and bacterial water quality parameters. He also measured benthic macro-invertebrate and stream habitat conditions. Algae growth and elevated fecal coliform bacteria levels suggested that the health of Tuscarora Creek is in jeopardy and warrants further investigation. The judges found that Ian's project was based upon good scientific design, was well prepared, and provided good research. They were impressed with the amount of data he collected to support his findings and the thoroughness of his investigation. Ian also exhibited skill and clarity in discussing his project. LWC monitors Tuscarora Creek, and we have also found degraded stream conditions. We hope that Ian will continue with his science investigations as he progresses through high school.

Get Involved with Monarch Conservation by Creating a Monarch Waystation

The following information is provided by Monarch Watch, a national organization dedicated to the science, education and conservation of monarch butterflies. Here in Loudoun, we are losing our grasslands and weedy roadside areas at an astounding rate. By creating monarch waystations, we help not only the monarchs but also a variety of other butterflies, as well as birds and other wildlife. Use LWC's online database to identify plants for butterflies at [http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Gardening For Wildlife Plant List.htm](http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Gardening%20For%20Wildlife%20Plant%20List.htm).

In the future, LWC will work to create a Monarch Waystation as a habitat restoration project. If you would like to help with this project, contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-4839.



A waystation is an intermediate station between principal stations on a line of travel. If we imagine the principal stations for monarchs to be their overwintering sites in Mexico and their reproduction locations in the breeding season, then it becomes easy for us to visualize the value of resource-rich waystations along the monarchs' route through their annual fall and spring migrations. Without resources — in the form of nectar from flowers — fall migratory butterflies would be unable to make the journey to Mexico. Similarly, without milkweeds along the entire route north in the spring and summer months, monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that culminate in migration each fall.

Monarchs Resources are Declining

Milkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides. Because 90% of all milkweed/monarch habitats occur within the agricultural landscape, farm practices have the potential to strongly influence monarch populations. This raises three main concerns:

- Farm and ranch lands are disappearing at a rate of nearly 3,000 acres per day. In a five-year period starting in 1992, six million acres of farmland (an area the size of the state of Maryland) were converted to subdivisions, factories, and other development (www.farmland.org).
- Widespread adoption of genetically modified herbicide-resistant corn and soybeans in the last five years has resulted in the loss of at least 80 million acres of monarch habitat.
- Use of herbicides along roadsides continues to reduce milkweeds and nectar plants.

Development

We are all familiar with development in and around our cities — farm and ranch lands are being converted to houses, factories, shopping centers and parking lots. It is the scale of these changes that is alarming — 3,000 acres a day adds up quickly! The rate of change was greater in the 1990s than in the 1980s, and it is probably even greater today. Urban sprawl, especially in the eastern half of the country, is eliminating habitats for monarchs and displacing wildlife.

Continued on page 13

Monarch Waystation...continued from page 12

Genetically Modified (GM) Crops



The planting of crops genetically modified to resist the herbicide glyphosphate (most commonly known by the brand name Roundup®) allows growers to spray fields of young soybeans or corn with this herbicide instead of tilling to control weeds. Milkweeds survive tilling but not the repeated use of glyphosphate. In fact, before the adoption of these GM crops, surveys in several states revealed that croplands with modest numbers of milkweeds produced more monarchs per unit area than other monarch habitats. The loss of milkweeds in these row crops is significant, considering that these croplands represent more than 30% of the total summer breeding area for monarchs.

Roadside Management

Roadside habitats constitute 2-4% of the land area throughout the monarch's summer breeding range, yet these areas are mowed and herbicides are applied. Although some states have started to increase the diversity of plantings along roadsides, including milkweeds, these programs are small. Unfortunately, the remaining milkweed habitats –

pastures, hayfields, edges of forests, grasslands, native prairies, and urban areas – are not sufficient to sustain the large monarch populations seen in the 1990s. Monarchs need our help.

What We Can Do

To offset the loss of milkweeds and nectar sources due to development, use of herbicides, and roadside management practices, we need to create, conserve, and protect milkweed/monarch habitats. Monarchs need resource patches, lots of them! The goal of Monarch Watch over the next three years is the creation of at least 10,000 of these patches, which we are calling "Monarch Waystations." We need you to help us and help monarchs by creating Monarch Waystations in home gardens, schools, parks, zoos, nature centers, field margins, along roadsides, and on other unused plots of land. This effort won't replace the amount of milkweed that has already been lost or even keep pace with the habitat losses each year; however, without a major effort to restore milkweeds to as many locations as possible, the monarch population is certain to decline to extremely low levels. In addition to creating monarch habitats in those areas each of us controls, we need to lobby on behalf of monarchs – to persuade our schools, nature centers, municipalities, and departments of transportation (DOTs) in each state to also create these habitats. Creation of restored habitats that support

Join Us for the 10th Annual Loudoun County Butterfly Count!

Saturday, August 5, 2006

Each year, on the first Saturday in August, teams of us gather to count butterflies. We visit gardens, parks, sanctuaries and fields to cover the area within our count circle. To be successful in this count, we need your help in spotting these "flying flowers." Last year, we saw 50 different species, and across our teams we counted over 5,000 individual butterflies. This year promises to be just as rich and varied.

When you sign up for this count, you will be assigned to a team that will have at least one experienced butterfly identifier who will not only lead the team but also share tips on identification of specific species. Teams meet at 9:00a.m. to start the count and break for lunch before continuing on into the afternoon. Join us for a few hours or the full day.

If you enjoy watching butterflies, would like to learn more about them, and see a wide variety of species, join us on this count. This is also a great experience for those who enjoy photography. You can sign up for the count by contacting Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org or (540) 882-4839. To see past data, look at our count circle, and learn more about the count, visit our website at: http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly_Count.htm.

Continued on page 14

Monarch Waystation...*continued from page 13*

monarchs and other wildlife will save money at all levels of government charged with maintaining roadsides and public lands. The increasing cost of energy is putting a strain on all budgets. We need to encourage our officials to create habitats and save money by eliminating unnecessary mowing and use of herbicides.

The Value of Monarch Waystations

By creating and maintaining a Monarch Waystation, you are contributing to monarch conservation and are helping to assure the continuation of the monarch migration in North America. Your efforts will also provide habitats for other species, including many pollinators – a rapidly declining and underappreciated, yet important, group of species. By educating others about monarchs and the need to provide habitats for wildlife, you will help raise the public's awareness of important conservation issues.

Create a Monarch Waystation

To create a habitat for monarchs, you need to provide milkweeds for the larvae, nectar plants [such as asters, goldenrod, ironweed, Joe Pye weed] for the adults, and sufficient vegetation to provide shelter for the larvae, pupae and adults. To show that you are contributing to monarch conservation, you may choose to have your new or existing monarch habitat certified as an official Monarch Waystation. Upon certification your site will be included in the International Monarch Waystation Registry, an online database of Monarch Waystations, and you will be awarded a certificate bearing your site's Monarch Waystation ID number. Furthermore, you become eligible to display a weatherproof sign that identifies your monarch habitat as an official Monarch Waystation. This display helps convey the conservation message to those who visit your Monarch Waystation and may encourage them to create their own monarch habitat. For more information, visit www.MonarchWatch.org/ws.

**ANS Environmental Education**

*The following classes are given by the Audubon Naturalist Society at the Rust Sanctuary in Leesburg, VA.
Please contact Cliff Fairweather at cliff@audubonnaturalist.org or 703-669-0000 for more information or to register.*

Beginner Bird and Insect Walk**Sat., August 12 (8:00—9:00 a.m.)**

Join us as we explore the fascinating world of insects and birds in this free one-hour walk. We'll sharpen our identification skills as we learn what to look and listen for when wildlife watching.

Bird Walk**Sat., September 9 (8:00—9:00 a.m.)**

This free one-hour walk is for bird watching beginners and is led by an experienced birder. Learn about what to look and listen for and tips on identification

Bring your binoculars and field guides if you've got them; if not, we've got some to loan.
Registration is required for all walks.

LWC Co-Sponsors Tree Planting Stewardship Event

by Darrell Schwalm

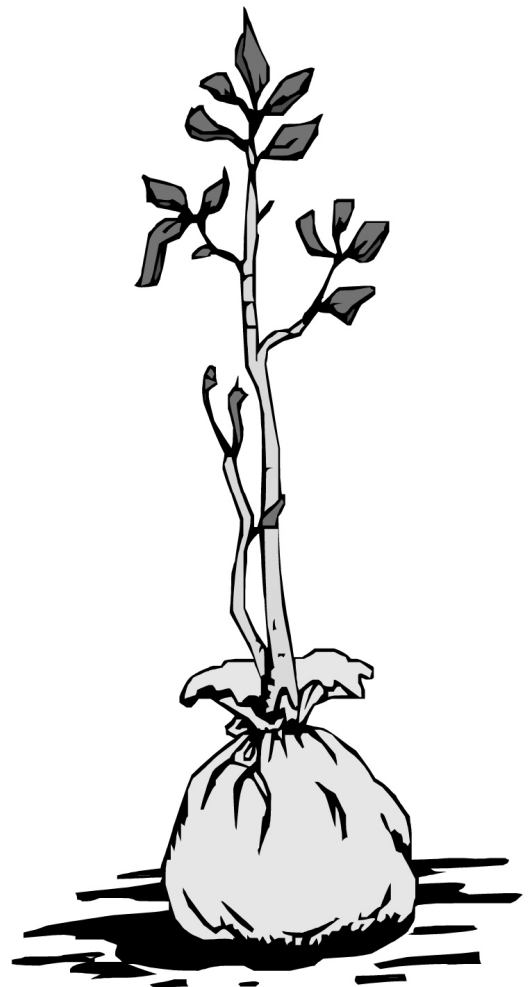
Environmental stewardship is alive in Loudoun County as shown by over eighty Girl Scouts, leaders, parents, and other LWC volunteers. These young and adult stewards planted 300 tree seedlings and installed blue bird houses in a new county park near Hamilton on Saturday, April 1, and loved every minute of it. Loudoun Watershed Watch (LWW) organized the event in collaboration with LWC as part of the Catoctin Watershed Project. With help from leaders and parents, Girl Scouts from 13 troops worked together in teams to accomplish the feat in about 1 ½ hours. They learned how to dig a wedge shaped hole with a “dibble bar,” to plant the seedling with the roots pointed down, and to close the hole to prevent air pockets. Parents pounded in wood stakes, and scouts attached plastic cone sleeves to protect the seedlings from deer.

Along with the planting, two fun nature activities were provided. With Gem Bingo helping, Phil Daley set up a streamside monitoring station where scouts conducted water quality tests and saw live specimens of the aquatic insects and fish found in small streams. The participants learned that trees planted along a stream create a “riparian buffer” that helps build healthy streams. The trees, brush, and grasses slow the flow of rain water, prevent soil and stream bank erosion, and filter sediment and other pollutants. The trees also create a natural buffer that provides wildlife habitat, shade to keep stream water cool, and food and shelter for fish and other aquatic organisms.

The second fun activity was the installation of blue bird nest houses under the direction of Nicole Hamilton and the help of Mary Dorsey-Lee and Brian Lee. The Girl Scouts painted six blue bird boxes with flowers and butterflies to make the birds feel welcomed. The decorated boxes were attached to metal poles along the edge of the rows of seedlings to create a blue bird trail in the new park. A local teen, Kyle Lee, is monitoring the blue bird boxes as part of a school science project. He reports that blue birds and tree swallows have already occupied the houses.

The event was a success because of the help of several groups and individuals. Mark Moszak and Darrell Schwalm co-chaired the event for LWW and LWC. Dana Malone, Loudoun County Forester, helped prepare the site and instructed the participants. Chris VanVlack, Loudoun County Soil and Water Conservation District, provided the tools and helped with the planting. Mark Novak, Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Service helped set up the event and provided support. The trees were provided by the Virginia Department of Forestry.

LWW and LWC sponsored this event as part of the Catoctin Watershed Project to restore water quality in the Catoctin Creek watershed. The Catoctin Creek, including the North and South Forks, are contaminated by fecal pollution from non-point sources, including livestock that have access to the streams. The State has allocated over \$1 million dollars in cost-share and grant funds for stream-side property owners to restore riparian buffers, keep livestock out of streams, and repair failing septic systems. The purpose of this stewardship event was to help people understand that trees and natural riparian buffers help make our streams safe for recreational use, for use as corridors by wildlife, and as a healthy place for fish and other aquatic life.



FEATURED FRIEND: Striped Skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*)

by Leslie McCasker

The striped skunk is about the size of a house cat, with a large, deep body, small head, and short legs. It averages 24 to 30 inches from the nose to the tip of its tail, and usually weighs from 4 to 10 pounds. The white markings on its otherwise black coat start with a thin line on its nose with a broad white patch on the head that flares to a wedge at the back of the head. It then splits into two white stripes forming a “V” running down the back and extending part way or all the way to the base of the bushy tail.

Its tail accounts for about one third of the animal’s total length and is magnificent. It is a glorious brush that the skunk carries slightly aloft as it waddles along in search of its next morsel.

The skunk is one of the species that has increased in population as more forest land has been cleared. The skunk prefers a semi-open habitat of mixed-woods, brush, and open grassland within two miles of water. Interspersion of these vegetative types favor skunk populations, but the skunk can be found in almost any habitat, including suburbs and city parks.

Skunk dens may be in a ground burrow or beneath a boulder, rock pile, wood pile, or abandoned building. Almost any dark, dry, sheltered site will do. Young skunks are taught to hunt by their mother. In late June or July, when the skunks are about seven weeks old, they are often seen walking single file behind mother at dusk — off for an evening’s feeding and training.

Striped skunks do not hibernate. In December, the females den up, sometimes eight or ten to a den. Males are more solitary. During periods of extreme cold, skunks may stay inside for days at a time, but a warm spell will bring them out in search of food.

The skunk is perhaps best known for its well developed scent glands, situated at the base of the tail. When seriously threatened, the skunk can squirt the musk from these glands with great accuracy up to 15 feet. When in the presence of a skunk, it is wise to remain as quiet as possible. Sudden movements frighten skunks and are interpreted as a threat.

Typically, the skunk goes through a series of three warnings before resorting to spraying. First it stamps its front feet, then it raises its tail with the tip pointed downward. The third and final warning is when the tip of the tail raises up and fans out. At this point the skunk is bent into a “U,” with both its front and back facing you — this way the skunk sees where it is firing, and it does so with incredible accuracy up to 15 feet (usually aiming at the eyes).



If necessary, a skunk can fire five or six consecutive times. But an older, more experienced skunk, may change its mind, forgive the intrusion, and lower its tail before slowly ambling away.

When a skunk does spray, gentle breezes can carry the scent more than a mile. The musk is yellowish, has an acrid, stinging odor, and will stick like glue. It is not only offensive to the nose but also painful to the eyes.

Equipped with such an effective defense mechanism, the foraging skunk wanders, seemingly oblivious to danger. Skunks have weak hearing, poor eyesight, and a



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Striped Skunk...continued from page 16

mediocre sense of smell and taste. Skunks make a variety of sounds—at times they may twitter, screech, growl, churr, coo, and whistle. Occasionally, one may churr or scold if disturbed or make grunting sounds when feeding.

The skunk cannot climb and has no ground speed. It ambles along in a slow, flat-footed gait at about 1 mph. Skunks have no reason to hurry, but when necessary they can “trot” about 3 to 4 mph, and at top speed they may reach 6 mph.

In spite of its potent defense mechanism, the skunk is very easygoing, shy, yet self-confident creature. Few predators will attack a skunk. Great Horned Owls are probably a skunk's greatest threat. The owls have no sense of smell, so no matter how many times they get sprayed, it doesn't matter. It's not unusual to find a great horned owl's nest surrounded by skunk skeletons — the remains of dinners the adults had brought to the nest for their young.

With few natural enemies, skunks are often observed along roadsides, and many thousands fall victim to the automobile each year.

Overall, the striped skunk benefits man by being one of the most effective predators of small rodents and insects. An occasional individual will attack poultry. With its well-developed defense and great adaptability, the striped skunk will probably remain an intriguing part of the fauna for future generations to enjoy.



Stream Monitoring Program Re-launch

by Darrell Schwalm

Stream monitoring is an LWC program of which we can be proud — it is the longest running, stream stewardship initiative of LWC. Since the program started in 1997, over 100 volunteers have sampled benthic macro-invertebrates at over 20 sites throughout Loudoun County. Monitoring results have been provided to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and used to assess water quality and identify degraded streams. Loudoun Watershed Watch also used the monitoring results in their two “State of Loudoun Streams” reports published in 2002 and 2005.

Now the LWC Board is re-launching the stream monitoring program in order to gear up for a new challenge. Loudoun County is beginning a comprehensive Watershed Management Planning initiative that will include countywide stream monitoring. Many streams in the county, especially headwater streams, have not been monitored; thus, no data is available to assess their quality. The Watershed Management Plans will identify the high quality streams that need to be protected, the moderately degraded streams that need to be restored, and the severely impacted streams. To support the county effort, citizen groups such as LWC are being asked to continue their water-resource stewardship programs, including stream monitoring and community outreach and education.

What does “re-launch” mean? The LWC Board recently adopted a new organizational structure for the stream monitoring program. The idea is to spread responsibilities for coordinating the program activities over several volunteer positions so each volunteer will have a smaller job, but together will get the bigger job done. There are a variety of jobs that need to be accomplished, including things that require little or no monitoring experience.

Therefore, this is a call for help from existing monitors and other LWC members to launch an updated stream monitoring program and meet the new need for stream monitoring data in the county. Happily, LWC has a long list of members who are interested in monitoring and want to be assigned to a monitoring team. The new program structure, once staffed with volunteers, will be able to incorporate new volunteers into the program. The contacts for further information about helping are Otto Gutenson and Nicole Hamilton. If you are looking for a critical stewardship program to help out with — this is it!

INSECT ID:

The Common Housefly (*Hemiptera: Corixidae*)

by Rachelle Hill

The common housefly often makes most of us run for our fly swatters. But do we really understand them?



The common housefly has only one pair of wings while the typical second wing, a characteristic of other flies, has been developed into *halteres or smaller appendages that help* to add stability to its flight. Its characteristic large eyes lend a unique look to this insect. Adults usually are 5-8 mm long, and its yellow abdomen is usually hairy. The housefly's lifecycle begins as one in as many as 500 eggs. It then evolves through all of the typical stages of development: larvae (maggots), pupae, and then adulthood. The housefly will actually clean itself as seen in the common movements one can observe once they land. They also eat through a process of spitting on food to dissolve it into liquid form.

So are houseflies really as pesky as they seem? While they do carry diseases, they are great food for the spiders in your house and garden, as well as the birds outside. These natural predators of the housefly aid in keeping their populations in check. So next time you want to get rid of these pesky insects: welcome some spiders into your home.

NATIVE PLANT:

Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*)

by Rachelle Hill

Neither skunk nor cabbage, this wildflower is perhaps a gem in disguise. This spring perennial has a purple flower that wraps around its unique center, the spadix, like a loose, pocked, and cabbage-like swaddling cloth. This plant's leaves can be found as large as two feet across at peak growth. It is even fire resistant!

The flowers themselves often appear during snowy periods, and the plant can generate enough heat to melt the snow around it. Yet their leaves usually do not appear until the spring and sometimes even into the late fall. The spadix develops in the mid-summer and is ovular shaped, 2-3 inches across. It first appears green and matures to black. This portion is its seedpod/fruit. While it is somewhat edible, it is not recommended since it can produce burns when eaten.



This plant gets the skunk portion of its name from the smell it emits when injured. This plant, by any other name, will definitely not smell sweet.

LWC to Receive Greenway “Drive for Charity” Funds

by Virginia McGuire

May 31 was a special day for drivers on the Dulles Greenway, and it marked an important day for LWC as well. Thanks to the “2006 Drive for Charity,” sponsored by the owners of the Dulles Greenway concession, all net proceeds from tolls collected that day will be donated to five Loudoun County non-profits. In fact, Toll Road Investors Partnership (TRIP II) CEO Greg Woodsmall said the company has committed toll proceeds to the selected groups for the next three years! Many thanks to Joe Coleman, who put together the application and obviously did a very good job of demonstrating to the decision-makers at TRIP II that LWC’s mission is a vital one for the residents of Loudoun County.

We are very proud and more than a bit excited to have been chosen as a recipient, and the LWC board is already discussing how to put those dollars to good use. As you may know, expanding our membership is a key goal for this year. We’ll do that with your help – getting the word out to neighbors, friends and co-workers about the wonderful programs sponsored by LWC and by continuing to offer myriad ways for the citizens of Loudoun to get in touch with wildlife. This includes awesome field trips, an exciting nature camp, valuable monitoring programs, conservation advocacy, and so much more.

The other “Drive for Charity” 2006 recipients are: Fresh Air Full Care, Loudoun Abused Women’s Shelter, March of Dimes, and Special Olympics.

YES, I want to become an LWC Member!

Membership Benefits Include:

- * Subscription to *Habitat Herald*
- * Volunteer Opportunities
- * Classes and Workshops
- * Regular Membership Meetings and Programs

Mail this form along with your payment to:

*Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
PO Box 2088
Purcellville, VA 20134-2088*

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ E-mail _____

Please indicate your membership level:

(*membership runs from January 1- December 31)

☐ \$10 Student*

☐ \$30 Family*

☐ \$200 Individual Lifetime

☐ \$20 Individual*

☐ \$75 Corporate*

☐ \$300 Family Lifetime

☐ Additional Donation \$ _____

☐ Renewing Member

☐ New Member

Programs at a Glance

(see pages 7-9 and 14 for complete descriptions)

July

- 8 Birding Banshee (L)
- 15 Butterflies and Dragonflies (L)
- 22 Birding the Blue Ridge Center (L)
- 30 Summer Streamside Wildflower Walk (L)

August

- 5 Annual Butterfly Count (L)
- 12 Birding Banshee (L)
- 12 Beginner Bird and Insect Walk (A)
- 19 Butterflies and Dragonflies (L)
- 20 Moths and Other Mysterious
Creatures of the Night (L)
- 26 Late Summer Nature Walk (L)
- 26 Birding the Blue Ridge Center (L)

September

- 2 Wildflowers, Butterflies and Birds at BRCS (L)
- 9 Birding Banshee (L)
- 9 Bird Walk (A)
- 10 Introduction to the Natural
History of Spiders (L & A)
- 16 Butterflies and Dragonflies (L)
- 23 Birding the Blue Ridge Center (L)
- TBA Bears: Our New Neighbors (L)

October

- 8 Macro-Invertebrate ID I (W)
- 14 Birding Banshee (L)
- 22 Macro-Invertebrate ID I (W)
- 28 Birding the Blue Ridge Center (L)
- 29 Monitoring Protocol Practicum (W)
- TBA Identifying Hawks (L)

A = ANS

L = LWC

W = Water Quality



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
P.O. Box 2088
Purcellville, VA 20134-2088

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