



Habitat Herald

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Summer 2008

Don't Get Rattled

Most Snakes Are Harmless and Good for the Environment

by Bonnie Eaton

"Why'd it have to be snakes?" This famous line from Indiana Jones says it all. People don't like snakes. Even Indiana Jones, who can rescue a damsel in distress while leaping across a perilous ravine 300 feet deep, is terrified of snakes.

According to a recent study by two researchers at the University of Virginia, our fear of snakes—one of the most common phobias in humans—is the result of evolution. They believe that early primates developed an acute awareness of snakes, and that this ability to detect their presence is now deeply encoded into our brains, including those of very young children. Apparently, surprising a puff adder or a black mamba in the wild was not a great idea, even then.

Add to this the biblical story of the serpent in the Garden of Eden and, well, you get the picture. We just don't like snakes.

But the truth is snakes are not evil or sinister. Most are harmless and play a vital role in maintaining a healthy environment. They like their privacy. Even venomous snakes are not normally aggressive and would rather avoid humans altogether.

Although about 8,000 people are bitten every year by venomous snakes in the United States, only five to ten deaths occur each year. Virginia has only two species of venomous snakes to watch out for: the northern copperhead and the timber rattlesnake.

Here are a few basic facts about snakes:

- Just as humans must shed old skin to reveal new skin underneath, snakes periodically shed their skin. But instead of shedding their skin in tiny, undetectable bits—as we do—snakes shed their skin all at once.
- Snakes cannot generate their own body heat. This means they must avoid long periods exposed to the extremes of heat and cold. This is one of the reasons they seem to "hide."
- Snakes have long slender bodies which allow them to swim, climb, and slip into tight places easily. Boasting anywhere from 200 to 400 vertebrae in their spines, snakes are extremely flexible.
- Snakes do not have ears, but rely on low-frequency vibrations from the air and ground to detect their prey.

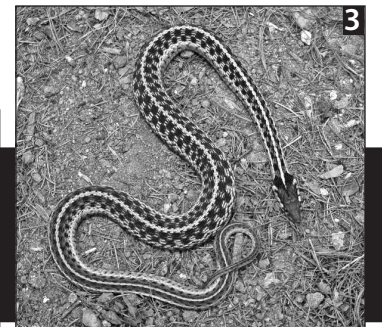
■ Continued on page 3

1. Eastern Kingsnake, *Lampropeltis getula getula*. Shiny and black with a series of thin white to cream crossbars or spots on its back. Grows to a length of 36-48 inches.

2. Northern Copperhead, *Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen*. Venomous with a triangular head and cat-like eyes, coppery red hourglass pattern, growing to a length of 24–36 inches. Found throughout Virginia in a variety of habitats.

3. Eastern Garter Snake, *Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*. Anywhere from 5 to 48 inches long, with two to three lateral stripes. Stripes may be in shades of yellow, brown, blue, or green, usually with alternating black stripes between. Occasionally, stripeless.

Photos by John White,
Virginia Herpetological
Society.



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A Word from the President

by Joe Coleman



LWC is often asked, "What I can do to help wildlife thrive and protect the county's rapidly diminishing natural areas?" Personally, you can do a lot and make a difference.

If you live in a community where your HOA has a meadow area, or if you are a large or even moderate landowner and your meadows are not needed for pasture or hay, hold off on mowing until later in the summer. By doing this you will give the numerous birds that nest in tall grass an opportunity to nest and raise their young. Every year the young of these species are killed by unnecessary mowing. **You don't have to mow all that, especially every week.**

In addition, consider the following:

- If you have a stream on your property, do not mow down to its edge but keep a riparian buffer on both sides of your stream. Riparian buffers are the single most effective means of protecting water resources. Streams guarded by a healthy forested riparian buffer are cleaner, cooler, and more stable than a stream without any kind of buffer.

- If you have wetlands or a flood plain on your property, don't mow it. Let it grow up with vegetation and play its vital role in the natural world.

- If you own forest land, leave dead trees if they are not a hazard. I live on a large wooded lot and only take down entire trees if they're dangerous. Most of the others I snag, cutting them off 20 to 30 feet off the ground, and let them slowly break down. These provide badly needed homes for birds, mammals and harmless insects, and when decomposing, provide needed nutrients for a wide variety of species as well as replenish the soil.

Whatever you do around your house or any property you help manage, **Do No Harm!** If you keep these three words in the back of your mind when you make decisions about the land, all of us will live in a much healthier world.

And lastly, support the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy in its efforts. We constantly need help to accomplish our mission, whether it's voicing your support on an issue or helping with one of our many projects, **You Can Make a Difference!** If you think you might be interested in helping with something, contact me at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542.

Come One Come All! Volunteers Needed at County Fairs!

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

August 23-24: Lucketts Fair
September 20-21: Bluemont Fair
October 11: Sterlingfest 2008
Mid October: Family Stream Day
October 18: Aldie Harvest Fest

These fairs offer a great opportunity to have some fun and meet your neighbors. At the LWC booth, we talk with fair-goers about the virtues of wildlife and the importance of saving their habitat, tell people about the programs and activities that LWC has to offer, and hand out publications. Most volunteers stay at the booth two or three hours, but the schedule is flexible enough to accommodate your needs. We also have a couple of people on-hand to provide breaks. If you want to be part of this fun, outdoor, low-impact activity, give Debbie Burtaine a call at 571-434-0867 or email dburtaine@loudounwildlife.org.

■ Snakes, continued



Photos by John White,
Virginia Herpetological
Society.

- Snakes are carnivores. They eat insects, fish, amphibians, other reptiles, birds and their eggs, and rodents. They swallow prey whole thanks to lower jaws that are loosely attached to their skulls, and highly moveable upper jaws. Their forked tongues, which pick up odors, are completely harmless.
- Some snakes lay eggs, such as the ratsnake. Others give birth to live young, including garter snakes, brown snakes, copperheads, and rattlesnakes.
- Venomous snakes can be identified by their cat-like eyes, sensing pits (between each eye and nostril), wide heads (much wider than their necks), single anal plates, and single scales on the underside of their tails.

Snakes as Friends

Virginia has 30 species of snakes. While your instinct may be to destroy every snake you see, don't. Snakes are helpful to man and the environment. They eat many of the pests that destroy our agricultural crops. The ratsnake is the farmer's friend and is always a welcome barn visitor. In the garden, snakes control annoying insects, slugs, and snails. Snakes are also food for other animals, such as hawks and great blue herons.

Medical science has seized upon the unique properties of snake venom, a complex mixture of proteins and enzymes. Researchers around the world are studying ways snake venom might be used to treat cancer, epilepsy, arthritis, and other human diseases.

Unfortunately, snakes are not as abundant as they once were. Their habitats are being destroyed to make room for suburban sprawl. They are evicted without warning. It's important to remember this the next time you meet one on the road.

Snakes as Neighbors

Snakes are solitary creatures seldom seen by homeowners. The closer you live to their natural habitats—creeks, woods, and fields—the more likely you are to see them in your yard.

If you wish to discourage snakes from entering your yard, eliminate potential food sources and hiding places. Keep your lawn mowed and shrubbery trimmed. Clear away unwanted debris and wood piles. And don't leave food outside where mice and rats will find it.

Stamp your feet or throw a stone to create vibrations to warn a snake of your approach. If you are accompanied by the family dog, it's best to put man's best friend inside until the snake has had the opportunity to find a hiding place.

To keep snakes outside where they belong, seal cracks and crevices in your home's exterior, especially around the foundation. If you suspect a snake has entered an area, turn on the lights. Snakes are seeking dark hiding places. You can also use a broom to usher the invader outside. If you suspect a venomous snake, leave it undisturbed and seek professional help.

Educating yourself about snakes is the best way to coexist with these fascinating creatures. When it comes to snakes, we truly have nothing to fear but fear itself.

4. Timber Rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus horridus*. Venomous, growing to a length of 36–60 inches. Two major color patterns: black or dark brown cross bands against a yellow, brown, or gray background; or a black head with black blotches and V-shaped markings on a background of dark brown to nearly black.

5. Eastern Ratsnake, *Pantherophis alleghaniensis*. Shiny and black, growing to a length of 42–72 inches. May show a spotted pattern when the skin is stretched in white, yellow, orange, or red. Sometimes confused with the northern racer.

Let's Count Butterflies!

LWC's 12th Annual Butterfly Count takes place August 2nd. Teams will cover Loudoun County, looking for butterflies as they flutter through fields, woodlands and gardens. This is a great activity for all skill levels. Whether you know your butterflies or are just getting interested, this is a great chance to see a wide variety of species all in one day. Teams are led by experienced people who share identification tips and other interesting butterfly facts. Join us for just part or all of the day — your choice.

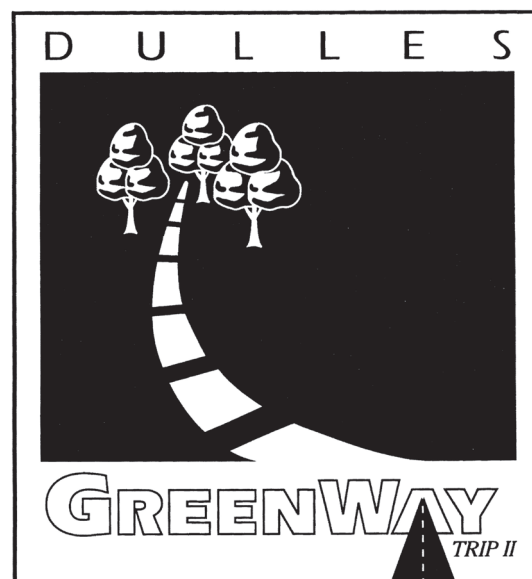


For more information and to sign up, visit our website: www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly_Count.htm or contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-9638.

Dulles Greenway Donates \$29,500 to LWC

For the third year in a row, Toll Road Investors Partnership (TRIP II), the owner of the Dulles Greenway, presented a check on May 30 to LWC, one of five Loudoun County nonprofits to split one day's toll intake from the highway. Their generous donation of \$29,500 to LWC will help us continue our work of protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat in the county and educating the county's citizens on the importance of wildlife.

Since its creation in the early 1990's, the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project, managed by TRIP II, has become one of the best birding spots in Loudoun County. Bald Eagles have successfully nested there each year since 2005. For years LWC has benefited from its partnership with the Dulles Greenway, surveying birds at the Dulles Wetlands and, since 2006, leading public walks there.



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Editor: Karen Coleman
Mary Ann Good
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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.

President	Joe Coleman	(540) 554-2542	jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org
Vice President	Bonnie Eaton	(703) 726-3078	beaton@loudounwildlife.org
Secretary	Cheri Schneck	(703) 431-4225	cschneck@loudounwildlife.org
Treasurer	Michael Friedman	(703) 858-7692	mfriedman@loudounwildlife.org
Finance	Craig Himelright	(703) 777-8691	chimelright@loudounwildlife.org
Programs and Field Trips	Laura Weidner	(540) 554-2747	lweidner@loudounwildlife.org
Habitat Restoration	Joe Coleman	(540) 554-2542	jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org
Membership Development	Helen Van Ryzin	(540) 882-4187	hvanryzin@loudounwildlife.org
Fundraising	Vacant		
Environmental Education	Paul Miller	(540) 882-3112	pmiller@loudounwildlife.org
Public Relations Chair	Bonnie Eaton	(703) 726-3078	beaton@loudounwildlife.org
Volunteer Coordinator	Lynn Webster	(540) 882-3823	lwebster@loudounwildlife.org
Conservation Advocacy	Mark Meudt	(703) 669-1792	mmeudt@loudounwildlife.org
Habitat Herald	Joe Coleman	(540) 554-2542	jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org
Community Outreach	Debbie Burtaine	(571) 434-0867	dburtaine@loudounwildlife.org
Stream Monitoring	Meg Findley		mfindley@loudounwildlife.org
Amphibian Monitoring	Nicole Hamilton	(540) 882-9638	nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org
Bird Population Surveys	Joe Coleman	(540) 554-2542	jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org
Bluebird Monitoring	Elizabeth Evans	(540) 822-5438	eevans@loudounwildlife.org
Special Projects Ops	Phil Daley	(540) 338-6528	pdaley@loudounwildlife.org
Special Projects Admin	Karen Strick	(703) 283-2149	kstrick@loudounwildlife.org

Virginia Master Naturalist Program at Banshee Reeks

By Rob Payne

Are you a budding naturalist? Are you the person that your friends and neighbors turn to with questions about the natural world? Do you want to learn more about the natural world around you? Are you a teacher who wants to learn more about nature so you can explain these concepts to others?

Join the Virginia Master Naturalist Program, Banshee Reeks Chapter training class, starting September 9 at the education annex of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

Together, we will learn about:

- Virginia's biogeography and climatology
- Basic ecology
- Identifying the organisms found in Virginia's natural habitats
- Botany and taxonomy
- Natural interpretation and teaching skills
- Resource management
- Use of field guides and other field tools

And, much more! Find out more about the chapter and the training and download an application at: <http://www.vmnbancheereeks.org/> or e-mail vmnbansheereeks@gmail.com.

Cicadas, *Tibecaen canicularis*

by Kerry Bzdyk

Everyone who lived in Loudoun County in the spring of 2004 remembers them. Their incessant, deafening buzz, big red eyes, and rare appearance garnered the periodical ("17-year") cicadas much attention in the media, in science classrooms, even at the office; they were, literally, everywhere. Some people even threw parties in their honor (remember the recipes?). We won't see these red-eyed oddities again in Loudoun County until the spring of 2021, when, I am certain, they will be met with as much interest, whether revered or revolted.

Less attention is given to the yearly appearance of their relatives, the "dog-day" (or annual) cicadas. They are called dog-day cicadas because they emerge from the ground seeking mates in the hottest part, or "dog days," of August. Adult cicadas are large, winged insects, 25–50mm in length. They are green, white, and black with large eyes set far apart on their heads. They have transparent wings held roof-like over the abdomen. While their physical appearance can be striking, cicadas are noticed more for the sound the males create to attract females. They make this sound using special membranes on the sides of the abdomen called tymbals. They usually make the most noise in the warmest part of the day.

While sometimes called "annual" cicadas, these insects actually have a life cycle of three years or more. The adult female will lay a cluster of eggs in a slit that she makes in the end of a tree branch with her ovipositor. In about 6 weeks small nymphs will hatch and fall to the ground. They burrow into the

soil under the tree in search of its roots. The roots of the tree will provide the nymph's food (sap) as it grows and

molts several times over a period of years. It continues to burrow deeper as it gets bigger, until it is several feet under the ground. When fully formed these nymphs will come out of the ground at night and climb up the trunk of a tree. The adult will emerge from the nymph case through a crack in the back of its shell, leaving behind the hard brown shell that we often find attached to tree trunks and fence posts.

Cicadas in the nymph stage feed on the sap of trees through the roots and adults may suck on twigs, but these insects are not considered agricultural pests. In fact, they are an important food source for birds and other wildlife in Loudoun County.

So this summer, when the heat is getting you down, grab something cool to drink and sit outside to enjoy the annual song of the dog-day cicada — nature's signal that summer, while it can seem endless, will soon be over.

www.cirrusimage.com/homoptera_cicada_T_canicularis.htm
<http://insects.tamu.edu/fieldguide/aimg82.html>





Congratulations Science Fair Winners!

by Bonnie Eaton

Since 2001, LWC has recognized the work of local teens entering projects in the Loudoun County Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This year, the 27th annual fair took place March 13 at Dominion High School in Sterling. Judges evaluated 191 entries. Led by their curiosity and desire to excel, these exceptional young people are the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

Receiving a monetary award of \$250 from LWC, Johnny (Jun-Hong) Kim, of Stone Bridge High School, took First Place for his project, "The Effect of Allaria Petiolata on the Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) and Its Effect on the Growth of Native Plants." Johnny examined how exotic species invade American native plant ecosystems. Many ecologists have carried out studies on invasions, but the majority of the studies have concentrated on above ground interactions. In his research, Johnny observed the effects on the soil community and the growth of native plants by an invading exotic species, garlic mustard (*alliarica petiolata*). The determining factor was the abundance of arbuscular fungi (AMF) present.

Johnny also took top honors for Loudoun County Public Schools winning the Best of Fair award for his project. In addition, he took the First Place award in the Environmental Management category (\$100), sponsored by the Loudoun Education Foundation.

Loudoun Valley High School student Eric Bolden took LWC's Second Place award (\$150) for his project titled "Effects of Water

Temperature on Potentially Deadly Microorganisms." Eric's study examined the rare infection of the central nervous system by the species *naegleria fowleri*. When these cases occur, it nearly always results in the death of the infected organism. To determine which factors might affect the likelihood of infection, Eric observed varying water temperatures in which the species tends to thrive to determine the lowest activity levels of the specimen with respect to temperature.

Dominion High School student Devon N. Reed was recognized with LWC's Third Place award (\$100) for his project titled "Strength vs. Camouflage: The Evolutionary Tradeoffs of Pigmentation in Bird Eggs." His project focused on wild animals and their fight for survival. Egg strength in birds is one of the primary factors that determine whether a young chick survives to hatch. Since egg pigmentation varies with bird species, it was the intent of his research to determine whether pigmentation played a role in the strength of the shell.

Devon also took First Place in the Animal Sciences category in the public schools competition, receiving a \$100 award. Towne Animal Clinic was the sponsor.

Awards were handed out to our 2008 winners at LWC's annual meeting at Rust Sanctuary on May 18. Congratulations to all and special thanks to our LWC panel of judges for volunteering their time and talents to this event.



New Officers and Board Members

At the May 18 Annual Meeting the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy held its biannual election of officers and elected:

President: Joe Coleman Vice-President: Bonnie Eaton
Treasurer: Mike Friedman Secretary: Cheri Schneck

At its June 3 meeting, the Board of Directors approved Elizabeth Evans as Chair of Bluebird Monitoring and Craig Himelright as Chair of the Finance Committee. And Karen Strick will now be in charge of Special Projects for Administrative Matters. Cheri Schneck and Craig Himelright are new to the Board.

Cheri originally became interested in LWC through its bird walks. She works as a party coordinator and nature instructor at Ida Lee, recently completed the Virginia Master Naturalist course, and is currently studying grant writing. Besides a love of nature, her passions include music, hiking, and mountain biking. Despite their efforts to resist, her children possess an unusual amount of bird knowledge and are becoming "greener" by the day.

Craig is a long time Virginian who grew up in Arlington County, spent a short time in Fairfax County, and then moved to Loudoun where he and his wife have lived long enough to put two sons through the school system. Craig is a certified public accountant in Leesburg. His wife and younger son introduced him to LWC where he has volunteered for bluebird monitoring and habitat restoration.

LWC still needs someone for Development and Fund Raising as well as someone to take over the Habitat Restoration Committee. We are also seeking someone to become the coordinator of the Habitat Herald. This person would be responsible for meeting with the other newsletter volunteers to determine the newsletter's content and ensuring that articles come in on time and deadlines are met. **If you think you might be interested in any of these tasks, please contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.** We need your help!

2008 International Migratory Bird Day

by Joe Coleman

Every May, LWC celebrates International Migratory Bird Day with a series of walks, a spring bird count, and a Birdathon. This year was no exception with over 50 people participating in the various events between May 3 and May 11.

Eight of the walks and the IMBD count occurred on May 10 when over forty people visited a variety of diverse birding hotspots in Loudoun County from Horsepen Preserve in the east to the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in the far northwestern corner of the county. They observed 127 different species of birds, somewhat less than in previous years. Including the Birdathon, 142 different species were observed between May 3 and the 11th. The Birdathon participants, through their efforts, raised about \$4,500 from almost 50 donors. This money will be used for bird conservation here in Loudoun County.

A factor in the lower species count on May 10 was the steady rain until noon. The weather limited visibility, kept a lot of birds quiet, and made it very difficult to find many birds of prey. In contrast, the Birdathon efforts on May 3 and 4, both almost weather-perfect days for birding, were considerably more productive.

On May 10, the largest groups visited the Horsepen Preserve in eastern Loudoun County and the Phillips Farm in Waterford. This was our first bird walk at the Phillips Farm and one of our few walks at Horsepen Preserve. We plan to visit both locations more frequently in the future.

The walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, led by Gerry Hawkins assisted by Joe Coleman, tallied the most species, 73. However, both the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project and Morven Park walks were close behind, with 72 and 71 species, respectively. Both of these walks were led by Bruce Hill assisted by Cheri Schneck. Including their visit to the new wetlands along Evergreen Mill Road, Bruce and Cheri tallied a total of 102 species on May 10.

The winners of the Birdathon in different species seen, 111 on May 3, and money raised, about \$3,000, was the Shrike Force team, comprised of Laura Weidner, Mary Ann Good, and Joe Coleman. The Birdathon team of Gerry Hawkins, Marc Ribaudo, and Bruce Hill came in a close second on May 4, with 107 species.

In spite of the weather, almost every one of the teams reported having a delightful time and rewarding looks at a variety of exciting birds. The results of the walks and the Birdathon can be seen on LWC's website.

The following people participated in the walks, the count, or the Birdathon. Those in bold deserve a special thank-you for leading walks on May 3 and 10th or for their participation in the Birdathon or IMBD Count:



The Shrike Force team of Laura Weidner, Mary Ann Good and Joe Coleman takes a quick, well-deserved break in the afternoon before hitting the road again for a long and successful day of birding. Photo by Karen Coleman.

Susan Abraham

Dale Ball

Jim Ball

Debbie Burtaine

Lloyd Burtaine

Roger Clapp

Jim Coleman

Joe Coleman

Donna Cummings

Nathan Cummings

Stephen DeCubellis

Cliff Fairweather

Mike Friedman

Mary Ann Good

Barbara Gordon

Julie Gurnie

Rick Gurnie

Christopher Haas

Phyllis Haas

Jay Hadlock

Nicole Hamilton

Gerry Hawkins

Bruce Hill

Martha Krieger

Kristine

Catherine Kubo

Andrea Martin

Larry Meade

Carole Miller

Rob Payne

Christine Perdue

Andy Rabin

Marc Ribaudo

Amy Ritter

G. Ruyer

Del Sargent

Cheri Schneck

Alex Sieh

Linda Sieh

Bruce Smart

Edie Smart

Turner Smith

Brownen Souders

John Souders

Emily Southgate

Jim Tracy

Larry Uman

Laura Weidner

Mimi Westervelt

Meet LWC's New Interns

by Karen E. Strick

LWC welcomes Kate Gentry and Joey Villari as its summer interns. This year's interns will participate in LWC's stream monitoring and habitat restoration programs as well as assist with the Summer Nature Camp at Banshee Reeks. Kate Gentry is currently enrolled in undergraduate classes at Northern Virginia Community College where she is president and co-founder of the school's zoology interest group. Kate is planning to transfer to Virginia Tech to enroll in their Wildlife Sciences Program next year. Her long term goal is to obtain a Master's degree in vertebrate-zoology with a minor in botany. Kate's other interests include traveling and pet-sitting.

Joey Villari is also a student at Northern Virginia Community College. He is pursuing a major in wildlife biology and a minor in writing. Joey is interested in tracking wildlife and making plaster casts of the different species tracks he finds. He has begun studying wildlife photography and has set up wildlife camera traps to study animal habits. Joey likes to volunteer and has been actively involved in three no-kill animal shelters. In his free time, he enjoys playing the guitar and bass. The LWC intern program is designed for enthusiastic self-starters who want to both learn and contribute. LWC seeks to maximize the interns' experience by exposing them to many of its programs through project work. Any college-age applicant is welcome to apply. Interns may apply for this paid internship by going to the "Community" link on the LWC website.



Kate Gentry



Joey Villari



Nodding Thistle by Karen Coleman

Plant ID: Thistle

by Helen Van Ryzin

Despite its prickly reputation to most, the thistle is a Scottish icon. Scottish legend says that the thistle saved sleeping Scottish warriors from invading Vikings who, barefoot, stepped in a patch of thistles. Thistles are defined in the dictionary as "any of various prickly composite plants (especially genera *Carduus*, *Cirsium*, and *Onopordum*) with often showy heads of mostly tubular flowers." The *Cirsium* genus alone has 258 species listed in the USDA plant database. Of the 97 species with distribution maps, only three are non-natives, and 14 are threatened or endangered. This is a large group of plants that can be difficult to tell apart. Thistles are generally biennials, forming only a rosette the first year. Most produce purple flowers and abundant seeds that are disbursed by the wind using thistledown attached to the seeds. Thistles are avoided by many grazing animals because they are prickly, but they are nontoxic and edible. The species listed above are the thistles we are most likely to see in Loudoun County.

Most people think of thistles as weeds, but the plants are listed in wildflower guides. You will need to consult a guide for proper identification, but using the list below you will be able to narrow down the possibilities. You won't find any of these plants in your local garden center! You will find most, even the natives, listed on invasive plant or noxious weed lists throughout the world. One of the most prolific, the Canada Thistle, a native of Europe where it is known as Creeping Thistle, is listed as an invasive weed in 43 states.

Thistles are most threatening on agricultural and disturbed land. Once established, thistles can be difficult to eradicate. Thistle seeds will not, however, blow in and take over a healthy native plant community, and most thistle seeds will not germinate in the shade.

■ Continued on page 9

Muskrats (*Ondatra zibethicus*)

by Kate Gentry

Yet another rodent that is often perceived as a pest — the muskrat. Unfortunately, their good qualities are commonly overlooked. Although they may cause havoc on dams and dikes while burrowing, the aquatic ecosystem would severely suffer without them. Thanks to the muskrats' consumption of plants for food and den sites, many waterfowl and other wildlife are able to find open water. Various wildlife also use muskrat lodges to rest and nest in.

Besides being a key component of their surroundings, muskrats are very meticulous builders — much like their relatives the beavers. They make sure that their dens are in perfect condition to raise their young. Their techniques include tunneling upward to ensure a dry den, building dome-shaped lodges in areas that lack steep banks, and constructing lodges in shallow, open water to keep dens above high water levels. Their dens can be very long and complex.

To find and observe these animals (always at a distance), it would be best to go looking at night when they are most active. They are almost always in the water and can dive for up to twenty minutes at a time. Muskrats are small animals, usually two to four pounds, and are normally dark brown in color. They have webbed feet and long, naked tails. The muskrats got their name from their rat-like appearance and the musky odor that secretes from scent glands. The secretions are used to mark out territories, so that violent male confrontation can be avoided. Muskrats can be found throughout the United States, living in groups of up to ten individuals.

The muskrat is considered the largest species of burrowing vole, and has many predators. Although it is a ferocious fighter, a muskrat could mean a meal for such animals as mink, otters, bobcats, house cats, domestic dogs, coyotes, foxes, large hawks and owls, and even largemouth bass depending on the region. Even if a muskrat avoids becoming prey, it generally has a life span of only one year.

Every animal is irreplaceable in our environment, even those that acquire a bad reputation. The more educated people become, the more various animals will become appreciated for their unique contributions and characteristics — even if they are “musky” smelling rodents!



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Thistle, continued

To their credit, wherever they thrive, thistles are great plants for wildlife. They provide abundant nectar for butterflies and other pollinators, followed by seeds that are enjoyed by birds. Thistle leaves also provide food for butterfly caterpillars. The Canada Thistle is host to 20 species of butterfly caterpillars, including the Painted Lady.

This summer, when you see a blooming thistle on the roadside or in an abandoned pasture, stop and look closely. On a sunny summer day, the plant will be visited by swallowtails, skippers, fritillaries, and other butterflies and most likely some caterpillars. Later in the summer you will see bright yellow goldfinches eating

the seeds. These butterflies and birds enjoy all the thistles on the list, whether they are native or non-native or whether we call them weeds or wildflowers.

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Common Name	Botanical Name	Flower size	Height	Distinguishing Characteristics	VA Status
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	1.5-2.5in	3-6ft	Stems prickly, leaves not white woolly underneath	Exotic
Canada Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	1-1.5in	1-3ft	Small numerous flower heads	Exotic, invasive
Field Thistle	<i>Cirsium discolor</i>	1.5-2in	3-7ft	Leaves white woolly underneath, leaves deeply cut	Native
Nodding Thistle or Musk Thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	1.5-2in	5-6ft	Distinguished from <i>C. acanthoides</i> by larger flower heads that nod when mature	Exotic, invasive
Pasture Thistle	<i>Cirsium pumilum</i>	1.5-2.5in	1-3ft	Stems not prickly, fragrant large flowers	Native
Spiny Plumless Thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i> L.	1-1.5in	5-6ft	Multiple stems with spiny wings leading to numerous flower heads, hybridizes with <i>C. nutans</i>	Exotic, invasive
Swamp Thistle	<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	1.5-2.5in	3-9ft	Stems not prickly, grows only in wet places	Native
Tall Thistle	<i>Cirsium altissimum</i>	1.5-2in	3-10ft	Leaves white woolly underneath, leaves toothed, not lobed	Exotic



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 MEETING -

LWC's Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg. 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 Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.*

BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT CLAUDE MOORE PARK-

Saturday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Join Mona Miller and Andy Rabin for one of LWC's free, family butterfly and dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas that comprise this beautiful park and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. Claude Moore Park is located at 21544 Vestal's Gap Rd. in Sterling Va. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.*

BUTTERFLY WALK, ORGANIC FARM TOUR, AND POTLUCK AT THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER - Saturday July 26, 1:00 p.m. Join us for a butterfly walk (1:00 p.m.) and tour of a seven-acre organic farm (2:00 p.m.). A potluck picnic lunch will follow, either outside on picnic tables or inside an open barn, depending on the weather. Guests are free to roam the trails and enjoy the different habitats, which include wetlands, meadows, rocky outcrops, creeks, seeps, and springs. This refreshing and informative event

is co-sponsored by the Great Falls Group of the Sierra Club and LWC. The center is located just north of Neersville, at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). *Detailed directions can be found on the website, www.blueridgecenter.org. Questions: Contact Linda Burchfiel at 703-506-4310 or larva@attglobal.net.*

12th ANNUAL LOUDOUN COUNTY BUTTERFLY COUNT -

Saturday, August 2, 9:00 a.m. Come have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. All skill levels are welcome. LWC will organize teams led by experienced butterflyers. We'll visit fields, farms, butterfly gardens and woods that span the county from White's Ferry in the east, to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center in the west, to Point of Rocks south to Lincoln. This annual, mid-summer count, modeled after Christmas Bird Counts, is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. This is a great chance to get outdoors and spot as many as 50 species of butterflies in a day. Spend a few hours in the morning or count all day. *For more information and to register, please visit our butterfly count page and sign up online (http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly_Count.htm) or contact Nicole Hamilton, 540-882-9638 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.*

BUTTERFLY SAFARI _ Sunday, August 3, (location and time

TBD). Families with children ages 5 and up flutter on over and join the fun as local naturalist, storyteller, and the co-founder of the Washington Area Butterfly Club, Alonso Abugattas, catches and releases butterflies and shares some wonderful facts about these winged wonders. Discover the many clever ways these delicate creatures have of surviving. *Questions: contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.*

A SWIFT NIGHT OUT - August 8, 9, 10. As summer draws to a close and Chimney Swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of half-dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! We encourage you to go out and look for this exhilarating spectacle and help us count the swifts. Here is how it works: several days prior to August 8, do some scouting and then over the next few days, keep your eyes to the skies at dusk and watch for areas where swifts are feeding. Look for a tall shaft, chimney or similar structure to locate where Chimney Swifts go to roost in your area (especially in the old historic parts of towns). Then, on one night over the weekend of August 8, 9, 10, observe the roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk and estimate the number of swifts that enter. When you have your numbers, contact us with your results and the location(s) where you counted swifts. That's all

Birding Banshee!

Join LWC and the Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this part of the county is a birding hot spot. Please bring binoculars. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*



Saturday, July 12
Saturday, August 9
Saturday, September 13
Saturday, October 11

**Walks begin
at 8:00 a.m.**

there is to it! We'll compile the information we receive and send it on the Driftwood Wildlife Association which tracks Chimney Swift activity across the country. For more information and results from past years, please visit: www.chimneyswifts.org and click on the "Swift Night Out" link. LWC would like to do a program on Chimney Swifts in the near future, so if you find some chimneys, towers, steeples or other locations where the swifts are roosting, please let us know.

DRAGONFLIES AT BANSHEE REEKS _ Saturday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00p.m. Join LWC for one of our free, family dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas at Banshee Reeks and identify all of the dragonflies we can find. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.*

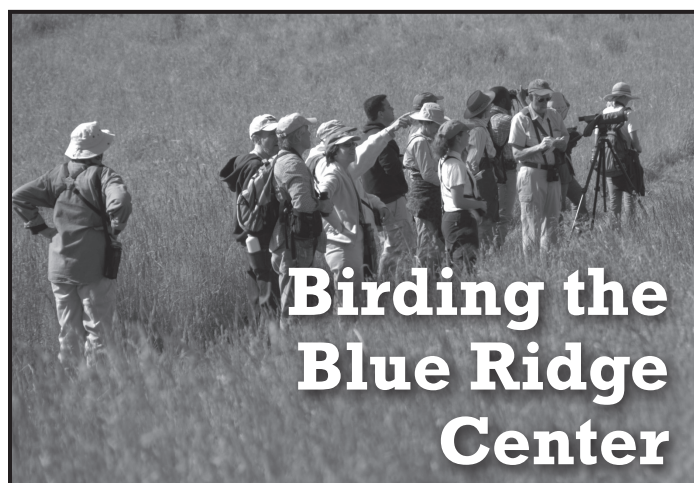
BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS AT THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP - Saturday, August 30, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Join LWC on a general, butterfly and bird walk at this beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. We should see butterflies using the late summer wildflowers as well 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 Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

WINGS OVER SKY MEADOWS - Sunday, September 7, 8:00 a.m. - Noon. Pre-registration required. Only 30 minutes from western Loudoun and situated on the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sky Meadows State Park offers a mix of habitats, including meadow, forest, field, and stream. We'll explore this natural area with leader Joe Coleman in a search for birds, both resident and fall migrants, and late-season butterflies. The walk will include up to three miles with some uphill and downhill in sunny terrain, but at a leisurely pace. Co-sponsored with the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). **Pre-registration required:** *Members (ANS & LWC): \$22; Nonmembers: \$30.50. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.*

MID-WEEK NATURE WALK AT ALGONKIAN PARK IN EASTERN LOUDOUN - Wednesday, September 17. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a mid-week, general nature walk. Check the web site for more details.

SUNDAY IN THE PRESERVE - Sunday, September 21, 1:00 p.m. Join a naturalist from the Friends of Banshee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this such a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316*

BIRDING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL AND HAWK WATCH - Saturday, September 20, 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Join us as we hike in the early morning along the Appalachian Trail in search of migrants. This section of the trail will lead us to a beautiful waterfall. Around 11:00 a.m., we will meet up with Liam McGranaghan



On the fourth Saturday of each month, LWC 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*

Saturday, July 26

Saturday, August 23

Saturday, September 27

Saturday, October 25



— teacher, experienced falconer, and licensed bander of raptors — for a few hours of hawk-watching at the Snickers Gap Hawk Watch and, if we're lucky, a major push of Broad-winged Hawks. Bring a lunch and a folding chair. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Snickers Gap Hawk Watch to car pool to the close-by hike location or join us at 11:00 at Snickers Gap. *Questions: contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.*

LOUDOUN AMPHIBIAN MONITORING PROGRAM (LAMP) END OF SEASON CELEBRATION - (Date, Time, and Location TBD). Registration Required. Join us as we celebrate the end of our first, full season of amphibian monitoring. Meet fellow amphibian monitors, share experiences from the field, look at photographs, and discuss ideas about how we can make this even better for next year. Complimentary copies of our Amphibian Monitoring Program posters will be available. Current volunteers as well as anyone interested in finding out more about our amphibian monitoring program are welcome. This is a potluck — so just bring a dish to share. Plates, utensils and beverages will be provided. *Please register online (www.loudounwildlife.org/Sign-Up.htm) or to Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-9638.*

■ *Programs and Field Trips, continued*

BLUEBIRD NESTBOX MONITORING END OF SEASON CELEBRATION AND TRAIL TALLY - (Date, Time, and Location TBD).

Registration Required. Say farewell to our bluebirds, tree swallows and house wrens as we celebrate another great season of bluebirds and their young. Meet fellow bluebird-nestbox monitors and hear reports from trail leaders on fledgling tallies for each of the trails. Plans for new trails will be discussed as well as changes to the program to enable registering and reporting data on backyard bluebird boxes or trails. Current volunteers as well as those interested in bluebird-nestbox monitoring are welcome. Predator guards and other items will be available for sale. Light snacks and beverages will be provided by LWC. *Please register online at (www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm).*

MID-WEEK NATURE WALK AT HORSEPEN IN EASTERN LOUDOUN - Wednesday, October 15. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a mid-week, general nature walk. *Check the web site for more details.*

SUNDAY IN THE PRESERVE - Sunday, October 19, 1:00 p.m.

Join a naturalist from the Friends of Banshee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this such a special place. For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.

IDENTIFYING HAWKS: A CLASS AND FIELD TRIP TO WAGGONER'S GAP, PA. Registration Required. (Date and location TBD) *Check the web site for details.*



Questions about the above programs?

Contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org or 540-229-2816.

For up-to-date information on our programs check our web site at **www.loudounwildlife.org**

Programs and Field Trips - *Sponsored By Our Partners*

AUDUBON NATURALIST SOCIETY RUST NATURE SANCTUARY
802 Children's Center Rd, Leesburg, VA 20175; 703-669-0000.

Come and enjoy the Rust Nature Sanctuary anytime from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, any day of the year. Our 68 acres encompasses meadows, forests, and ponds where you will find a variety of wildlife and plants.

Our Wild Neighbors: Living With Urban Wildlife, Thurs., July 10 (7:30 - 8:45 p.m.)

Urban wildlife can enrich our lives, but it can also be a source of conflict. John Hadidian, Director of Urban Wildlife programs at the Humane Society of the United States, will talk about urban wildlife and resolving human-wildlife conflicts.

Rust After Hours, Sat. Jul. 12 (7:30 - 9:30 p.m.) Spend an evening eavesdropping on bats, hooting for owls, black-lighting for bugs, and finding out what else might be out in the dark and how they're adapted to the night life. RSVP 703-737-0021.

An Introduction to Insects, Sun., Jul. 27 (10:00 a.m. - noon) Get to know a critical part of nature - insects! We'll search for insects at Rust to learn how to identify them and how they help make the natural world work. RSVP 703-737-0021.

Broadlands Nature Center: ANS, in partnership with the Broadlands Association, is offering the following at 21907 Claiborne Parkway in Broadlands. All programs our \$4.00 unless otherwise

noted. Please sign up at least one day before the event by calling 703-729-9704.

August 13: Mommy, Me and Nature Makes 3 — The Monarch Effect

Ages 2 and 3 (11:00 am - 12:00 noon) Come and learn about monarch butterflies and their migration habits. Make a butterfly craft, sing songs and listen to a story about butterflies.

August 27: Nutty Squirrels

Ages 6 and 7 (11:00 am - 12:00 noon) What are the squirrels up to at this time of year? Why do they have such bushy tails? Learn all about squirrels and play a predator/prey game.

September 7: Graham Crackers with Grandparents

All ages (1:00 - 3:00) Come and celebrate Grandparent's Day at the nature center. We will do nature activities such as crafts, songs or stories. Talk about life cycles of animals and have a graham cracker treat.

September 23: From Flower to Fruit

Ages 4 and 5 (9:30 - 10:30 am) The flower-to-fruit cycle will be introduced as well as the parts of the flower. Go on a flower and fruit hunt.

September 24: Bird Migration

Ages 6 and 8 (3:00 - 4:00 pm) Who is moving in and who is moving out of our area? Which birds should you be looking for at this time of year? Go on a bird walk and look for visiting birds.



CLAUDE MOORE PARK NATURE PROGRAMS

Visitor Center: 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling, VA 20164

www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm

Visitor Center/Discovery Room: Daily 9:00A-5:00P

Park Hours: Daily 7:00A-Dusk

Find the wild in Sterling! Explore eleven miles of hiking trails through Claude Moore Park's forests, fields and ponds.

Have an encounter with the birds, squirrels and deer that make CMP their home. Check out our Discovery Room and Frogshackle nature centers and programs at www.loudoun.gov/claudemoorespark, call 571-258-3700 or e-mail claudemoorespark@loudoun.gov. To help make the most of your experience, join one of our naturalist-led programs. Here are some samples:

Nature Camp: What's Happening in the Habitat?

(Entering grades 2-5) Become a naturalist: investigate animals and the way they live. Net insects and discover dens and nests, berries and bones, butterflies and toads. Take a trip to the pool and help save animal habitat. \$3.75 fee for pool. Fee \$200.00
M—F, 7/14-7/18, 9:00AM- 3:00PM

Nature Adventures at Sundown

(Ages 7-10) Explore the park at night when the beavers, owls, and bats come out. Play a bat game. Listen for insect and frogs calls on a hike in the dark woods. On Thursday, meet from 7pm-10pm and do some stargazing and toast some marshmallows around a campfire. Fee \$84.00
M—Th, 7/21-7/23, 6:00PM- 9:00PM and 7/24, 7PM-10:00PM

Nature Camp: Surviving Nature's Wonders

(Entering grades 3-5) Explore our areas' native plants, animals, birds and bugs in a fun and safe way! Learn to use a compass and map and use those skills to take a treasure hunt. Become a seasoned hiker. At the end of the week, use your new outdoor knowledge to hike in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Fee \$200.00
M—F, 7/28-8/1, 9:00AM- 3:00PM

Twilight Moonrise Hike

(All ages) Watch the full moon rise into the sky while exploring the fields and forests in search of the park's twilight wildlife. Call to register. Fee \$4.00
F, 7/18-7/18, 7:30P- 9:30P

Birding Adventure

(Ages 9 & up) Join an expert birding volunteer to look for birds in the park's meadows, ponds and forests. On a recent bird walk they saw 39 different bird species. Bring water and binoculars. Free
Sa, 7/19, 8:00AM-10:00AM

Remembering LWC Member

Leni Friedman

by Joe Coleman

Remember "Leni" Friedman, who founded an online community for birders, played in a renaissance music group and had careers as a needlepoint teacher and medical transcriptionist, died January 14, 2008, surrounded by family and friends at her "Eagle's Nest" home in Bluemont, Va.

Born on February 9, 1936, Leni will be remembered for her love of nature, passion for art and music, and talent for uniting groups. Leni had been a long-time member of LWC and was known as "Kestrel" to her friends in the birding community.

My house is not far from Leni's property on Blue Ridge Mountain Road, and she graciously gave us permission to bird her property for the Christmas Bird Count and spring count even when she couldn't join us. When she could be with us, it was always a pleasure to bird with her. I'll always remember a spring count about five years ago when she and I were on top of the mountain and took shelter from a storm under a porch on an abandoned house. We were surrounded by a tremendous amount of thunder and lighting — an experience that was both exhilarating and scary. And, I always enjoyed her telling of the bear that climbed up the lattice work on the outside of her house to get to her second-story porch to eat the bird seed there.

Memorial contributions may be made to Huntley Meadows Park (3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, Va., 22306. Include "Lenore Friedman Memorial Fund" on memo line) or Capital Hospice (www.capitalhospice.com, 703-531-6225). Notes of condolence may be sent to Leni's husband, Dr. Sholom Friedman, 3156 North 18th St., Arlington, VA, 22201.



Illustration by David Sheldon

Adventures of **Zoom & Compass**

By Senia Hamoui

"I think someone is watching us, Compass," whispered Zoom.

Compass immediately pressed the sound amplifier on his watch. "...and I think that someone is coming in our direction. Quick, zoom in!"

"Are you crazy? I'm not getting any closer!" she shrieked.

Just then, a boy sprang out from a nearby butterfly bush, stumbling in front of Zoom and Compass. "Uh, hello. My name is Zane," he said. "I called you earlier about the unidentified natural occurrence of how butterflies protect themselves. I just can't figure out how butterflies avoid being gobbled up by predators!"

"We'll solve that UNO for you!" Zoom and Compass said at once.

Compass asked Zane to sit down on the grass. "Ahem," he said as he cleared his throat. "Let's begin with the monarch-- its bright orange and black wings warn others that it would be a terrible tasting meal. Birds and lizards who try eating one remember the horrible taste and stay away from butterflies with those colors and patterns. Monarchs aren't the only ones--others like the Pipevine Swallowtail, which has metallic blue-green color on its hind wings, have the same defense."

"Excuse me," interrupted Zoom. "You forgot to mention that it's the milkweed plant that the monarch feeds on exclusively as a caterpillar that makes it poisonous--the plants toxins don't harm the caterpillar at all, but boy does it bother the predator! And, one of the host plants that the Pipevine Swallowtail feeds on is Virginia Snakeroot, making it poisonous in the same way."



"I was going to talk about that next, but I'm glad you brought it up, Zoom," retorted Compass. "Speaking of Monarchs, if you look just 45 degrees NE, you'll see one."

Zoom inched slowly toward the butterfly with her magnifying glass. "It's not a Monarch. It's a Viceroy," she said.

"Let me see," Compass said in disbelief. He looked through his binoculars and saw that the butterfly had a horizontal black band running across its wings, something a Monarch wouldn't have. "Hmm... you're right."

"Of course, I'm right," stated Zoom. "Furthermore, another mistaken identity could be the female Black Swallowtail which looks a lot like the Pipevine."

"Mimicry!" Compass shouted. "The non-poisonous butterflies have evolved to resemble those that are poisonous, thus warding off potential predators to which they would otherwise have been a tasty meal!"

Zane jumped in front of Compass' binoculars as he looked again at the Viceroy. "Mimicry works great for some butterflies, but what about others?" he asked.

"They have other ways to keep from being eaten," Compass answered. "Brownish butterflies called satyrs use their dull colors to blend into the background so that predators can't see them. Others have big eyespots on their wings that when opened and closed quickly startle the predator, allowing the butterfly time to escape."

"And there are still more ways," interjected Zoom. "The Silvery Blue has different colors on the top and bottom of its wings. The top wings are a polished blue and the bottom a dull brown that blends in with the leaves when the wings are folded. This helps it to hide from predators. Another butterfly—the Black Tiger Swallowtail—has tails that look like antennae and spots on its hind wings that resemble large eyes. This illusion tricks its predator into biting the wings, rather than the head and body. The butterfly can then escape, even if a part of the wing is missing."

Zane was smiling now. "I get it! Butterflies use their colors, designs, tails and quick moves to protect themselves. They can even fly with a portion of their wings bitten off! I'm going to watch the butterflies that visit my garden, and see if I can figure out what special quality each has to keep it from becoming lunch."

"And if you spot one with a part of its wing missing..." began Zoom.

"...you'll have a good idea of what may have happened," finished Compass.



Volunteer Appreciation

Compiled by Lynn Webster

Because the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is an all-volunteer organization, any accomplishment, large or small, is due to the efforts of volunteers. This list covers the time period from mid-March through mid-May, but does not include those who helped with other projects listed elsewhere in this issue. All of us, including our wildlife, thank you!

Sarah Ali
Lisa Baisden
Lorrie Bennett
Nick Beck
Daniel Biggs
Gem Bingol
Debbie Burtaine
Lloyd Burtaine
Kerry Bzdyk
Barb Chambers
Candi Crichton
Casey Crichton
Joe Coleman
Karen Coleman
Ellie Daley
Phil Daley
Helen deGroot
Bonnie Eaton
Elizabeth Evans
Emma Evans
Hank Evans
Lily Evans
Meg Findley
Fred Fox
Michael Friedman
Andrea Gaines
Ann Garvey
Kate Gentry

Mary Ann Good
Sheri Graybill
Debra Gutenson
Otto Gutenson
Gil Hamilton
Nicole Hamilton
Senia Hamoui
Gerry Hawkins
Mike Hayslett
Craig Himelright
Tammy Himelright
Lisa Johnson
Elliott Kirschbaum
Nancy Kirschbaum
Brian Magurn
David McCarthy
Sarah McDade
Liam McGranaghan
Frank McLaughlin
Mark Meudt
Lee Meyer
Paul Miller
Robert Orsino
Bill Oscanyan
Frank Piliere and
Cub Scout Pack 961
Christine Perdue
Robin Phillips

Andy Rabin
Michelle Robbins
Jennifer Roberts
Scott Sandberg
Darrell Schwalm
Louise Searle
Andrew Sedlins

Stan Shetler
Bob Shuey
Sylvia Shuey
Sharron Stephan
Karen Strick
Michelle Stulga
Lisa Taylor

Jim Tracy
Helen Van Ryzin
Joey Villari
Mike Walsh
David Ward
Lynn Webster
Laura Weidner

Marcia Weidner
Marianne Weitzel
Mimi Westervelt
Katie Wolcott
Jeff Wolinski

We can't do it without you.

We apologize if we have omitted or misspelled anyone's name. If we have, please contact Lynn Webster, our Volunteer Coordinator, at lwebster@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-3823



Yes, I want to become an LWC Member!

Membership Benefits include:

Subscription to Habitat Herald • Classes and Workshops
Volunteer Opportunities • Regular Monthly Meetings and Programs

**Mail this form along with your payment to: Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy,
PO Box 2088, Purcellville, VA 20134-2088**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

Please indicate your membership level:

- ☐ \$10 Student * ☐ \$20 Individual * ☐ \$30 Family * ☐ \$75 Corporate *
☐ \$200 Individual Lifetime ☐ \$300 Family Lifetime ☐ Additional Donation \$ _____
☐ Renewing Member ☐ New Member (* membership runs from January 1 - December 31)

Join online: www.loudounwildlife.org



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