

Habitat Herald

A Publication of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

Volume IV, Issue 1

Winter 1998-1999

Vernal Pools: A Vanishing Habitat

Here Today - Gone Tomorrow

vernal of, relating to, appearing or occurring in, the spring
(*Webster's New World Dictionary*, 2nd ed.)

Vernal pools are shallow natural depressions ranging from puddles to ponds, that are filled by the rising water table of fall and winter, by the melt-off of winter snow, and by spring rains. These waters combine with the unique qualities of the soil to create a habitat ideal for plants and animals that occur nowhere else in the world. Most pools hold water only for a few months and are generally dry by late summer. Some are semi-permanent; although they do not dry out completely, as summer progresses the pools are deficient in oxygen and nutrients.

During the last century, vernal pools have disappeared beneath the asphalt and concrete of urban sprawl. The few areas where vernal pools remain are facing continued pressure from non-native species, pollution, and since powerful machines can now breakup the hardpan and drain the soil, it seems that everybody—farmers, developers, highway builders—wants a piece of the vernal pool landscape.

One of the most fascinating aspects of vernal pools is the sudden appearance of life in the just thawed waters of a spring pool. Since the pools dry periodically, organisms that use them have adapted to take advantage of the temporary abundance of water without actually remaining in the pool itself. Some live in adjacent forests and lay their eggs in the pool. Others come to the pool to use it as a feeding resource for themselves and their offspring.

The food chain within the vernal pool begins with leaves that settle into the pools in the fall. Bacteria and fungi begin the decay process and themselves become food for larger micro-organisms. Insect larva feed on the leaves, shredding them as they forage. Insects feed on the leaves and other plant materials, reproduce and become abundant. The organisms that develop in a vernal pool are in a race with time; they must end their dependence on the pool before the waters disappear. The organisms that develop and forage in vernal pools are themselves scavenged by insects, birds, mammals, and reptiles.

Some organisms have evolved so that they must use a vernal pool during part of their life cycle. These are the obligate vernal pool species. If an obligate species is using a body of water, then that water is a vernal pool. The most easily recognizable obligate species in the mid-Atlantic states are the fairy shrimp, the wood frog, and four types of mole salamander.

Fairy shrimp are small crustaceans (about 1 inch in length) which spend their entire lives (a few weeks) in vernal pools. The female shrimp drop their egg cases during the aquatic phase, then die en masse as the pool evaporates. Fairy shrimp produce two types of eggs. One hatches immediately to produce a current generation. The other, laid at the end of the growth season, remain on the bottom of the pool, surviving a cycle of drying and freezing, and then hatch when water fills the pool in the next year. By the time the next generation appears in the fall, most of the

Continued on page 3

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.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board meets the first Tuesday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members. For more information, or to suggest topics for discussion at upcoming meetings, contact Joe Coleman.

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A Word from the President

Woodsman, spare that brush!

Small creatures need it for food and shelter.

It has never in the history of the world been easier, with our new electric and gas-driven tools, to cut down a natural habitat.

Many people have told me recently that they've seen more and more hedgerows being torn out, meadows subdued into lawns, and homeowners not only mowing clear down to their streams but tearing out the vegetation around the streams. People wonder, with reason, what this means for the wildlife, especially in a serious drought year like this one, with fruit- and berry-producing trees and shrubs not producing and a dry winter predicted.

Many animals depend on these habitats for food and shelter, and without them our wildlife, with whom we share the land, will suffer hard times. Perhaps few people realize that these unshaven areas also protect us. Lawns not only don't serve as buffers for our streams, they and their maintenance actually make matters worse. And while the absence of rain these past months has helped us forget the impact of erosion, a healthy buffer of shrubs and trees along a stream minimizes the erosion and chemical run-off that damage both our immediate neighborhood and the tributaries of the challenged Chesapeake Bay.

Hedgerows and Other Corners of Diversity is an important pamphlet available from the Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Among the more general concerns, it points out that as we shave away their natural food and shelter, the wildlife moves into our yards and even our homes in search of food and shelter.

The tangle of trees, briars, and shrubs along the edge of your lane and your property may not meet your standards of suburban tidiness, but it will grow on you if you spend some time watching the activity that takes place in it and the flowers and foliage - and delicious warm summer berries - that flourish in it, and the animals that depend on it. Smaller animals provide food for larger animals and the soaring hawks and owls that share our land with us. A country lane without a hedgerow is a sterile place indeed.

In Levittown, a close-shaven lawn is a status symbol. In the country, a flourishing population of birds, berries, bunnies, and bushes seems more appropriate. Just because it's easy to strip the land doesn't mean it's good.

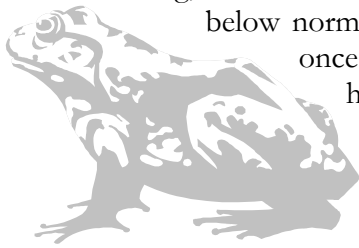
— Joe Coleman

Vanishing Habitat...Continued from page 1

predatory insects have disappeared, leaving the tiny hatchlings to grow in relative peace.

Wood frogs and *mole salamanders* are amphibian species that spend most of their lives on the upland forest floor. During the first night of warm spring rains, after the ground has thawed, the most noticeable vernal pool activity begins. On this night, the wood frogs and mole salamanders migrate to ancestral vernal pools. These amphibians may journey considerable distances, cross snow drifts, and endure any ice that remains, to return to their breeding pools. After mating and laying eggs, they return to their woodland habitat on another rainy night, to spend the rest of the year. Their young develop in the pool, and eventually emerge to begin their lives on land, following the adults into the forests as the pools dry.

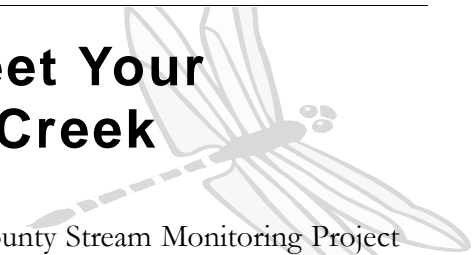
Normally by this time of year, the vernal pools would have started to fill with water. But as I write this article, most of the vernal pools in our area are still dry as a result of the summer drought. The unseasonable warmth has prevented the soil from freezing, and at the same time, precipitation is 30% below normal. Hopefully by spring we will once again see these miraculous habitats return.



If you find a vernal pool, treasure it, study it, and protect it. Observe the full and varied spectrum of its life. Show its wonders to your children and friends. Most of all, understand just how fortunate you are — your pool represents the critical and fragile habitat of numerous species, yet most people are unaware of their existence. In a time when urbanization and continued development reduce biological diversity and destroy pockets of natural habitat, vernal pools represent a dynamic ecosystem, where generation after generation return to breed and ensure the survival of their species. The continued destruction of vernal pools may signal the decimation of entire populations of valuable wildlife.

If you are interested in learning more, please join us for our *Vernal Pools and Their Inhabitants* program, March 18, presented by Michael Hayslett.

Meet Your Creek



The Loudoun County Stream Monitoring Project has launched a new program to introduce civic groups, families, neighborhoods, and school science classes to the pleasures and benefits of stream monitoring. The program, called *Meet Your Creek*, combines an informative slide presentation, a walk along a creek, and an up-close look at some of the aquatic creatures that live in our streams. Since it was introduced this fall, civic associations, Rotarians, families, girl scouts and boy scouts, and students working on science fair projects have “met their creeks” and been bitten by the stream-watching bug.

The program is presented by Cliff Fairweather of the Audubon Naturalist Society and Maria Ruth of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy board. It's available free of charge to anyone interested in learning about their local streams and how to help preserve and protect them, and how they connect with the Chesapeake bay and it's problems.

Meet Your Creek is flexible. It can vary from half an hour to two hours, and can be scheduled on weekdays, weekends, or evenings, wherever groups meet - local libraries, community centers, church meeting rooms, or someone's living room. The program is designed to explain what stream monitoring is about. Groups or families interested in becoming monitors and adopting a stream this year can schedule a series of training classes or sign up for the classes offered to the public.

To schedule a *Meet Your Creek* program, call Maria Ruth at (540) 338-3810.

Visit our web site!

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is now online. Look up our calendar of events or an article from the *Habitat Herald*.

Our address is:

www.loudounwildlife.org

In Harmony with Nature

Ser-en-dip-i-ty — making fortunate discoveries accidentally.

My wife and I were doing the annual cleaning of the birdhouses, and were really pleased to see how many of them had been used and needed cleaning, nearly ninety percent. We clean only the birdhouses close to the ground and the three martin houses mounted on top of long poles that pivot down to the ground. The houses up out of reach in the trees don't need to be cleaned out. Those we clean have one side mounted so that it can be pivoted up to give access to the inside; just remove a screw at the bottom and swing the side up.

We had nearly finished the circuit when I opened the side of one that was filled to the top with nesting material, more than we'd ever seen. While we looked in at it, it moved. It produced a bulge near the top. Nesting material doesn't usually move. I reached in to press it back into the birdhouse and a pair of big eyes in a gorgeous flat face peered out of the entrance hole. The little head practically filled the hole. It didn't seem to be afraid of us; it just stared.

I had no idea what it was. I had never seen such a face before. I decided it could stay in the birdhouse, but as I reached up to replace and fasten the side, the little creature climbed out of the box, went around the tree and came into sight again just above our heads. Its bushy tail marked it as some kind of squirrel, but very small, only about nine inches from nose to tail-tip. While it sat there we could see what seemed to be a seam running down its side from wrist to ankle, and I realized we had found a flying squirrel. The "seam" is the loose fold of skin that stretches out so the squirrel can glide from one

tree to another.

Flying squirrels are rarely seen because they're very nocturnal, unlike our gray squirrels who are busy all day. And we didn't know that we had them in South Riding. Well, we do, and they're beautiful.

Presently the squirrel went on up the tree, out of sight, and we moved to the next birdhouse to continue our cleaning. I opened it — and it was full of nuts. While we were staring surprised, something fluttered down between us that we thought was a leaf. Then the flying squirrel came around this second tree and climbed in the front of the birdhouse to see what we were doing. We had found its food cache. What we'd thought was a leaf had been the squirrel sailing around us and landing on the back of the tree. Again, it was within arm's reach and quite unafraid.

Having finished our housecleaning chores, we went inside to check the internet for information. We have here a southern flying squirrel. They're small, nine or ten inches long, and don't actually fly, of course, but they're superb gliders. Using their tails as rudders when sailing from tree to tree, they make a quick turn just before landing so that they're facing up the tree when they touch it. Then they scurry around to the back of the tree to elude any pursuing predator. We also found that it's not unusual for them to use a birdhouse as a nest and a second, nearby birdhouse for food storage.

We're delighted to be its hosts, and hope they continue to enjoy South Riding as much as

OOPS! On page 3 of the last newsletter, we misspelled Cindy Welsh's last name. We regret the error.

Banshee Reeks Still in Peril . . .

And it needs you on January

Our summer newsletter and good media coverage have encouraged the retention of Banshee Reeks as a natural area and environmental education park with no ballfields or "active recreation" facilities.

However, it is very frustrating that many Loudouners are still unaware of or apathetic about the risk of losing this jewel for future generations.

Members of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and other Banshee Reeks activists met with Cindy Welsh, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, on November 12. Much of the meeting was positive, with Ms. Welsh saying she would be glad to work with the group in developing and advertising natural history and environmental programs for Banshee and fix up a tenant house on the property for groups to use. However, she also stated that she was under pressure to provide ballfields and other active recreation facilities to support the sports needs of Leesburg and Central Loudoun. She and her staff have had the Banshee landscape architects add a fourth option to the current designs, an area without ballfields.

These architectural plans were presented to the Board of Supervisors December 2. Although this was a non-public session, over 50 people from the coalition attended. Supervisors Jim Burton and Eleanor Towe supported the option for a natural park without ballfields; most of the other supervisors were noncommittal. However, Chairwoman Dale P. Meyers said she saw no possibility of funding for a different property for the ballfields and active recreation areas Leesburg and the central county needs. She also cited Claude Moore Park as an example of active and natural areas coexisting for the

benefit of all, though some observers might disagree. Members of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy feel that the active-recreational areas there have a serious negative effect on the wildlife.

The open space advisory committee was strongly in favor of keeping the park all natural; the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which hadn't yet reviewed the fourth option, restated the need for more ballfields close to Leesburg. Mayor Clem of Leesburg said he and his staff would review the fourth option, but also mentioned the ballfields need.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is committed to retaining Banshee Reeks as an environmental, educational, and scenic vista for the public, as we believe was Thomas Malloy's intent in his will. His will specified that the original acreage be "exclusively for conservation purposes, thereby to assure the preservation of the said farm for the education, and scenic enjoyment of the general public." After the will was written, Mr. Malloy purchased an additional 155 acres and neglected to update his will to include them.

It is this area where the proposed facilities will go, with high-intensity lighting, parking areas, ballfields, an equestrian operation, and probably a community center. This buzzing hive of organized sports and activities day and night cannot fail to ruin the peace of the adjacent habitat and drive off its creatures. Certainly it will disturb the peace of any Loudoun youngster who would rather watch birds and beavers than play yet another game of supervised soccer.

Yes, let there be ballfields. But let them be closer to the population centers that create the demand. Let the quiet of one of our last natural habitats rest

**Banshee Reeks needs you NOW - call or write your supervisor today.
Calls and letters count.**

**Banshee Reeks needs you JANUARY 20 at the Board of Supervisors' public session.
Let them know we care!**

Stream Monitoring Update

The Loudoun Stream Monitoring Project, now in its second year, uses trained volunteers to collect data on the health of streams in Loudoun County. We look at habitat, water temperature, pH, and aquatic macro-invertebrates and insects. This gives us one type of data to assess the health of our waters. Currently we have 11 teams of 45 volunteers monitoring 11 sites in six watersheds. We began collecting data in May 1997, and continued again in July and September, with an optional winter collection. This year we collected data again in May, July, and September, and are again planning a Winter collection.

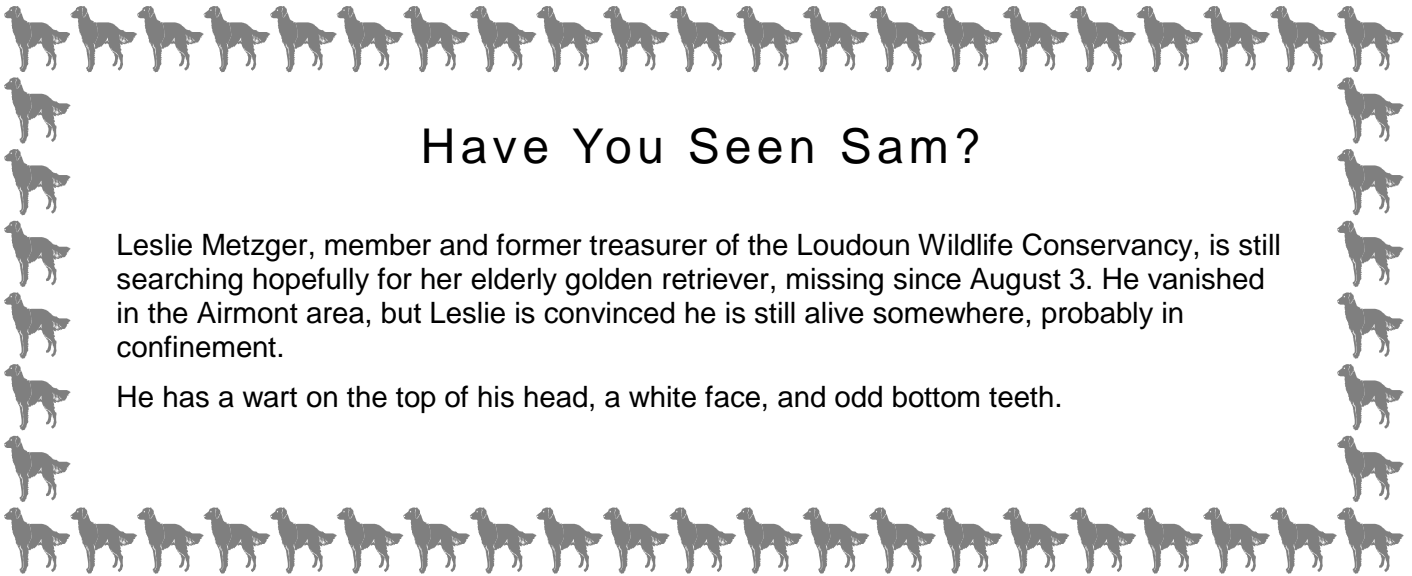
Most of the sites look pretty good. The heavy rains of early May created high volume on most of our sites, which made collection difficult. Later in the summer the lack of rain affected the flow rate of our creeks and streams, and by the end of the summer many of our sites had no flowing water at all. This has hampered our data collection. The site on Tuscarora Creek in

Leesburg has gone downhill, probably due to the noticeable erosion of sediments and gravels. The Purcellville Nature Park site has also declined since we started collecting in May of 1997, coinciding with new housing and industrial construction in the area.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy was awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, funded through the sale of bay license plates, to help with the project. The LWC received money for a portable display, a continual loop slide projector, a stream restoration workshop, and an intern to help promote and publicize the project.

The purposes of the stream monitoring project are to collect data on the health of our streams and alert local officials of our findings, and to make more people aware of the wealth of streams and their habitats we have inherited here.

If you would like to join us, or just want to



Have You Seen Sam?

Leslie Metzger, member and former treasurer of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, is still searching hopefully for her elderly golden retriever, missing since August 3. He vanished in the Airmont area, but Leslie is convinced he is still alive somewhere, probably in confinement.

He has a wart on the top of his head, a white face, and odd bottom teeth.

LOUDOUN STREAM MONITORING PROJECT

Classes and Programs

The water quality of Loudoun County's streams is integral to the well-being of local wildlife and can serve as an accurate indicator of overall ecosystem health. Most of Loudoun County's streams support diverse communities of aquatic life. Streams and their associated shoreline habitats provide shelter, forage, and movement corridors for local animals, and are also used by many of the migratory species that make their seasonal journeys across our landscape.

As our volunteer base grows, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, in partnership with the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) and the North Fork Goose Creek Watershed Project, plans to establish stream monitoring teams for every watershed in Loudoun County. This program is made possible, in part, by a grant to ANS from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund, financed through sale of Chesapeake Bay license plates.

HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Sunday, February 7 (2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.) *meet at the LSWCD office.* Sign up required

The habitat surrounding a stream has a large effect on the health of the aquatic ecosystem. Learn to identify different habitat features affecting water quality. This class will be held at several streams in Loudoun County.

MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION I

Section 1: Sunday, March 7 (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) *Location to be announced.* Sign up required.

Section 2: Thursday, March 25 (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) *Location to be announced.* Sign up required.

Benthic macro-invertebrates, those boneless creatures that live under flowing water, are important indicators of the health of a stream system. Learn how to identify the major groups of these organisms, including aquatic insects and crustaceans, to the taxonomic level of order (*e.g. Plecoptera* or stoneflies).

Note: The March 7 class will combine both classroom and field instruction, weather permitting; the March 25 class will be classroom only. When registering, specify the session you wish to attend.

MONITORING PROTOCOL PRACTICUM

Sunday, April 11 (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.) *Location to be announced.* Sign up required.

Using the data collection protocol developed for the ANS Water Quality Monitoring Project, participants will learn how to gather abiotic data (temperature, pH, and several habitat assessments) and use a D-frame net to collect stream organisms. The practicum will be conducted at a stream in Loudoun County.

MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION: REVIEW AND QUIZ

Section 1: Wednesday, April 14 (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.) *Location to be announced.* Sign up required.

Section 2: Sunday, April 18 (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.) *Location to be announced.* Sign up required.

Before being sent into the field, participants in the Stream Monitoring Project are asked to demonstrate their ability to identify aquatic macro-invertebrates by taking a quiz using preserved specimens. Macro-invertebrate ID sheets and keys can be used to complete the quiz. Participants who decline to take the quiz will still be assigned to a team to assist with data collection. Only those who have taken and received a passing score on

PROTECTING LOUDOUN'S STREAMS AND WATERWAYS

If you are interested in becoming a stream monitor, please fill in the following form and mail it to:

Stream Monitoring Project
c/o Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District Office
30-H Catoctin Circle, SE
Leesburg, VA 20175

or call: (703) 777-2075.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone:(H) _____ (W) _____

List the Classes and Dates you are interested in:

Class	1st Choice	2nd Choice

List the Stream you are interested in monitoring:

1st Choice	2nd Choice

If neither of those streams are available are you willing to help monitor a site designated by the Project? q Yes q No

Are you interested in being one of our Team Leaders? q Yes q No

Would you be interested in helping us with some of our administrative functions (typing, maintaining our database, or record-keeping)? q Yes q No

Young Naturalists Programs

January 23 and 30, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Design and build your own **BIRD FEEDER** out of clay with Hanna Janney of *Pottery by Hand* in her Purcellville studio. This feeder will require two 1½ hour sessions to complete as it will be painted and fired to make a permanent feeder. Information will be provided on common bird visitors to our area. There is a fee of \$20 per person for the workshops payable to Ms. Janney at the beginning of the first class. This class is designed for people ages 6 and older. Parent/child partners are welcome.

January 24, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Take an **ADVENTURE WALK** with Phil Daley at Brown's Bottom near Lincoln, VA. Discover this wonderful stream and surrounding area. Hopefully we will see all kinds of birds and mammals, explore the stream and maybe find some surprises. This is an exploration adventure. Come prepared to observe, wonder and learn as we wander and roam. Weather will not slow us down so come dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to show us! Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, pencil and a field journal. This walk is designed for people 8-12 years of age. There is no fee for this adventure.

February 3 and 17, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Try your hand at **NATURE AND WILDLIFE DRAWING** with local artist and animal lover Suzanne DeSaix. This class will focus on the basics of drawing, the components of shapes, reducing the animal or nature subject into simple lines and circles and building up from there. More advanced students will move ahead to focus on contour and gesture drawing. Skills of observation will be developed by learning to see proportions, textures and the "attitude" of a given animal. Drawing subjects will include: feathers, cones, grasses, turtle shells, pine boughs, flowers, shells, rocks, eggs, fruits and vegetables, tree bark, drawings and photos of various animals and, perhaps, a live snake and bird. Well-known nature artists and examples of their works will be covered. The winter sessions will be held indoors. Students will use a sketching journal for drawing and making notes on their observations. This same journal can be used in later sessions which will be scheduled for outdoors, weather permitting. This two-day class is designed for people in grades 1-4 and will be held at the Loudoun Valley Community Center. The cost of the session is \$14. A supply fee of \$4 includes a drawing journal, artist's graphite sketching pencil and a kneaded rubber eraser.

February 6 and 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Learn **BIRDING BASICS** from Phil and Ellie Daley. Visit the Daley's beautiful country home in rural Lincoln, sip hot chocolate, nibble on cookies and observe birds at the feeders and on the property. Learn how to categorize and identify some of the common visitors to our winter feeders. Please bring a pair of binoculars and bird field guides if you have them. This is an excellent follow-up class to our January bird feeder workshop. This session is designed for people 8-12 years of age. There is no fee for this class.

February 14, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Take an **ADVENTURE WALK** with Phil Daley at Banshee Reeks Park outside of Leesburg, VA. Discover this beautiful jewel in Loudoun County's Park system. Hopefully we will see birds, hear beaver, watch deer, explore Goose Creek and maybe find some surprises. This is an exploration adventure. Come prepared to observe, wonder and learn as we wander through out Banshee's 700 acres. Weather will not slow us down so come dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to show us! Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, pencil and a field journal. This walk is designed for people 8-12 years of age. There is no fee for this adventure.

February 27, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Try your hand at **NATURE AND WILDLIFE DRAWING** with local artist and animal lover Suzanne DeSaix. Refer to the February 3rd session for a complete course description and fees. This one-day class is designed for people in grades 5-7 and will be held at the Loudoun Valley Community Center.

March 3 and 17, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Try your hand at ***NATURE AND WILDLIFE DRAWING*** with local artist and animal lover Suzanne DeSaix. Refer to the February 3rd session for a complete course description and fees. This two-day class is designed for people in grades 1-4 and will be held at the Douglass Community Center.

March 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Take an ***ADVENTURE WALK*** with Phil Daley at Banshee Reeks Park outside of Leesburg, VA. Please refer to the description of the February 14th adventure. We will make an effort to visit other areas of the park.

March 27, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Try your hand at ***NATURE AND WILDLIFE DRAWING*** with local artist and animal lover Suzanne DeSaix. Refer to the February 3rd session for a complete course description and fees. This one-day class is designed for people in grades 5-7 and will be held at the Douglass Community Center.

April Come and learn from Leslie McCasker about what it takes to ***BECOME A LICENSED WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR***. Ms. McCasker specializes in mammals and has been rescuing and rearing wildlife for several years. Hear stories of triumph and sorrow, find out what it takes to be a rehabilitator, learn about the commitment and steps that you must complete to become licensed and truly help injured and orphaned wildlife. This presentation is intended for teenagers and adults. There is no fee for this session.

Space is limited for all of these sessions.

Please call Leslie Sinn at (540) 338-9301 for further information and to reserve your spot. Help and suggestions are always appreciated!

Of Interest to Young Naturalists

The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazonian Rainforest
and
The Great Kapok Tree

These are two great books by Lynne Cherry about the Amazon Rainforest. Excellent follow-up activities after reading these books would include visits to the Amazonia exhibit at the National Zoo or the Rainforest exhibit at the Baltimore

There is a series of books called
Wildlife for Kids

published by NorthWord Press. To receive a catalog of books available from this company, call 1-800-336-5666.

Each of these paperback books focuses on a particular bird or animal. The photographs are wonderful, and the text is simple and direct.



Christmas Bird Count

As this newsletter goes to press, the second annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count is underway. We can only hope that it is as successful as last year.

The 1997 Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count took place on December 27, 1997 from 3 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and covered from Waterford in the north to Aldie in the south, and from Purcellville in the west to Ashburn in the east.

There were 43 observers, split into 13-17 groups. These observers counted **22280** individuals and **95** species of birds. They covered 43 miles on foot and 400.5 miles by car.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy would like to acknowledge the following participants:

David Abbott, Gem Bingol, Ryan Chornock, Thomas Chornock, Roger Clapp, Joseph Coleman, Ellie Daley, Phil Daley, John Drummond, Tanya Ferraro, Jerry German, Jim Harper, June Harper, Billy Herbert, Anne Hocker, Duane Hope,

Jack Hugus, Janet Jamil, Jennifer Jenkins, Mike Kelly, Robert Laney, Bev Leeuwenburg, Karin MacDowell, Robert MacDowell, Robert McDowell, Susan McSwain, Leslie Metzger, Christopher Naused, Pat Niederpruem, Joan Nowicke, Stanwyn Shettler, Mickie Silfa, Sean Sollinger, Shannon Sollinger, Newell Trask, Craig Tufts, Ralph Wall, Mary Weeks, Adele Witenstein, Kristine Younkin, Stuart Younkin.

Thank You!



Spring Pools

by Robert Frost

These pools that, though in forests, still reflect
The total sky almost without defect,
And like the flowers beside them, chill and shiver,
Will like the flowers beside them soon be gone,
And yet not out by any brook or river,
But up by roots to bring dark foliage on.

The trees that have it in their pent-up buds
To darken nature and be summer woods —
Let them think twice before they use their powers
To blot out and drink up and sweep away
These flowery waters and these watery flowers
From snow that melted only yesterday.

!!

IF YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE JOIN US.

IF YOU ARE, PLEASE BRING A FRIEND.

Yes, I would like to join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, and help keep the county a place where people and wildlife can live in harmony.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Membership Fees:

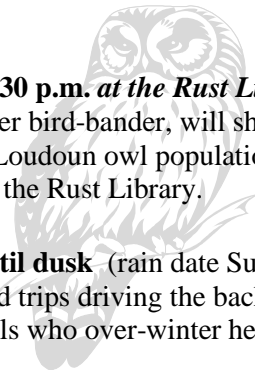
- q \$10 Student
- q \$20 Individual
- q \$30 Family
- q \$75 Corporate
- q \$200 Individual Lifetime
- q \$300 Family Lifetime
- q Additional Donation \$ _____

Please mail to:

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

Please make checks payable to The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. Contributions are tax deductible.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



OWLS: An Introduction to Their Natural History. Tuesday, January 19, 1998, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library. Paul Engman, past President of the Raptor Society of Metropolitan Washington and master bird-bander, will show slides and discuss owls, their habitats and their environmental role. He will explain why Loudoun owl populations swell in the winter months, and where to look for them. This program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library.

IDENTIFYING HAWKS: Field Trip. Saturday, January 30, 1999, 2:30 p.m. until dusk (rain date Sunday, January 31). Liam McGranaghan, master falconer, will lead one of our most popular field trips driving the back roads of Loudoun County, with frequent stops to find and identify hawks and perhaps owls who over-winter here. *Sign up required - Call Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542.*

KEEPING THE NIGHT SKY DARK & REDUCING THE IMPACT OF LIGHT POLLUTION. Tuesday, February 16, 1999, 7:30 p.m. at the Eastern Loudoun Library. Phil Ianna, an astronomer at the University of Virginia, will describe the adverse environmental effects of light pollution and solutions to this rapidly growing problem. He is on the Board of Directors of the International Dark-Sky Association, an organization dedicated to preserving the nighttime environment through the use of sophisticated lighting.


IDENTIFYING HAWKS: Field Trip. Saturday, February 27, 1999, 2:30 p.m. until dusk (rain date Sunday, February 28). Phil Daley will lead this repeat of one of this popular field trip. See the January 30 listing for more information. *Sign up required - Call Phil Daley at 540-338-6528.*

VERNAL POOLS AND THEIR INHABITANTS. Tuesday, March 18, 1998, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library. Michael Hayslett will explain the ecology of vernal pools, one of our most threatened habitats, and their conservation, vital to the amphibians that live and breed in them and other fauna and flora that depend on them. This program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library.

During his March visit, Mr. Hayslett will spend a couple of days in the County certifying vernal pools.

THE BEAVERS AT BANSHEE: Field Trip. Saturday, March 27 and April 10, 1999, 4:00 p.m. until dusk. We will visit Banshee Reeks, a future Loudoun County park, and its complex of beaver ponds. We will discuss their importance in the natural world and also see early Spring wildflowers and migrating birds. *Sign up required - Call Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542.*

Look inside for our new *Young Naturalists Programs* calendar of events.

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