

# Habitat Herald

A Publication of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

Volume IV, Issue 2

Spring 1999

## Heralds of Spring

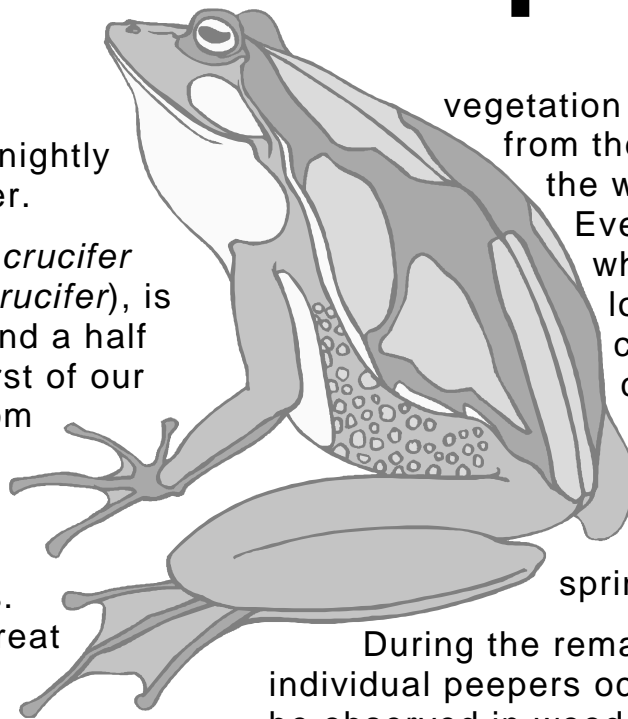
One of the sure signs of approaching spring is the nightly calling of the spring peeper.

This tiny frog, *Pseudacris crucifer* (formerly known as *Hyla crucifer*), is about an inch to an inch and a half long and is typically the first of our frog species to emerge from winter hibernation.

For such a small animal, spring peepers have extraordinarily loud voices. They can be heard from great distances.

Seeing them is another matter, not only because of their small size but because of their ventriloquist's ability to *throw their voice*.

This species occurs wherever standing water may be found. Males, which do the calling, typically perch on



vegetation either emerging from the water or near the water's edge.

Even when you know where to look, locating individuals can be a real challenge and makes for good out-of-doors entertainment for children on a spring evening.

During the remainder of the year, individual peepers occasionally may be observed in wooded areas during rainy weather.

The spring peeper is identified easily by its light brown color and a distinctive darker **X** on its back.

So, enjoy the coming season. Spend an evening looking for these interesting animals. \*

Please note that the date of our **Gardening for Wildlife** program has been changed to **Tuesday, May 25**.



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.

For more information, please visit us at:

[www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)

**Numbers At a Glance:**

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**A Word from the President on:**

**Protecting Our Natural Resources**

The Rural Economic Land Use task force recently released its report, "The 200,000-Acre Solution: Supporting and Enhancing a Rural Economy for Loudoun's 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The report, really a report on economic development, emphasizes protecting our natural resources, especially rural land and water quality. Securing the land and resource base for rural enterprises is one of the three goals of the business plan. By protecting these, the County will also protect wildlife habitat.

The report recommends creating performance standards to protect natural resources. Many of these standards already exist in the County's Comprehensive Plan. The Rural Economic Plan also calls for a county department with oversight responsibility for our natural resources, a function largely abandoned when the Department of Environmental Resources was abolished several years ago. Since then, enforcement of what standards we do have, such as the Mountainside Overlay District, has been minimal. Open-space requirements are routinely modified in the building-approval process. At one time, Loudoun County was known for its progressive planning. It was a model for protecting both our resources and our citizens with intelligent planning. Unfortunately, when the Department of Environmental Resources was disbanded, many of its functions were incorporated into Building and Development, and natural resource protection waned. Many of the existing standards are ignored, sometimes because they aren't enforced, sometimes because the few people still responsible are preoccupied with overseeing the development of our rapidly growing county.

Because of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's work in protecting water quality, people often call us to complain that erosion and sediment are being inadequately controlled. When they call the county, as we suggest, to report the problem, response is usually quick and effective, but the available staff

is clearly insufficient. Looking at some of the building taking place on our mountainsides, it is hard to believe that existing standards are being followed. This is an especially sensitive and

*Continued on page 3*

*A Word...Continued from page 2*

critical area because runoff from the mountainsides affects not only our water quality but also the replenishment of our ground-water supplies.

Protecting our natural resources will protect wildlife habitat. All of us must encourage the County to uphold its existing standards, and insist that our leaders reactivate the many standards from the Comprehensive General Plan now left dormant.

Call when you have a question. Call to report the abuse of land. Remember this is an election year. Support the candidates who support protecting natural resources. Ask them how they feel about what happened to our department of environmental resources, and about enforcing the disused standards already in place. Check their records. Like all of us, I abhor layers of bureaucracy that slow down effective performance. But maybe, just maybe, because of the Rural Land Use task force's *200,000-Acre Solution* and the upcoming elections, we will be able to preserve some of this county's rural character to benefit all of us, including our wildlife, well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. \*

— Joe Coleman

## An Update on Banshee Reeks

On January 20, over 60 people attended a Board of Supervisors' public input session on the future of Banshee Reeks. More than 90 percent of the speakers, representing several organizations, asked that all of Banshee Reeks be set aside as a nature preserve that could serve as an outdoor classroom. Three speakers who had come to argue the case for ballfields changed their minds in the course of the meeting and agreed with the case for a natural preserve. All seven of the supervisors present said that they either supported the idea or were leaning in that direction.

The Board's Internal Operations Committee is scheduled to discuss the issue April 8 at 5:30 p.m. Because of the continuing pressure for more ballfields in Loudoun County, we must continue to let the Board know that Banshee Reeks is not the right place for them.

To keep Banshee Reeks natural in perpetuity, the LWC is asking the Board to place conservation easements on the entire park, as we believe was Thomas Malloy's intent in his will. \*

## Clean Up Goose Creek By Canoe

On April 24, the Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) committee will launch a flotilla of canoes and kayaks onto Goose Creek for its annual clean up. This year, two trips are being offered. Trip One will involve white water (Class I, II, and III rapids) and is open to experienced canoers and kayakers with their own boats. This trip starts with a cleanup at the Goose Creek Dam at 9:00 a.m. Trash will be bagged and left there for pickup. Then boaters will then paddle toward Rte. 7 to the Keep Loudoun Beautiful Park. There will be a lunch break before joining Trip Two (if you want to).

Trip Two starts at the KLB Park at 12:00 noon. Canoes will be available to rent for this trip which involves no whitewater. They will work their way down stream to the confluence of the Potomac and Goose Creek. A van shuttle will be provided to return to the Goose Creek Dam and the KLB Park.

Bring lunch, water to drink, gloves, and dry clothes. The trip is free for KLB members; non-members can join for \$15 per person. All interested persons should call Sallie Ventresco (703)-777-7175 or write her by e-mail at

# Seven Simple Steps to Save Your Local Streams



**Report Problems** Every citizen should report improperly maintained erosion control fences around construction sites. You can call the Loudoun County Dept. of Building and Development's Engineering Division Hotline **(703) 777-0116**. This office handles soil and erosion issues, drainage complaints, road concerns, and developer and homeowner association problems. Provide a brief description of the problem. Your call will be returned within one working day. Complaints and inspections often lead to stop work orders until the problem is fixed.



**Become a Waterwise Gardener** The Virginia Cooperation Extension Office in Loudoun County offers classes to groups and communities. For information on the program call **(703) 777-0373**.



**Meet Your Creek** Schedule a watershed walk through the Loudoun County Stream Monitoring Project. Cliff Fairweather of the Audubon Naturalist Society and Virginia Water Quality Program is willing to lead groups on walks of your neighborhood or nearby creek. Call Cliff Fairweather at **(703) 803-8400**.



**Adopt A Stream** through the Loudoun County Stream Monitoring Program. Volunteers work in teams on local streams to monitor the quality of the water three times a year. Volunteers are offered free training and use of the equipment for collecting data (temperature, pH, etc.) and identifying the insects that live in the stream. For information on

Water Conservation District Office at **(703)777-2075**.

**Establish a Friends of Your Creek** group with neighboring communities to preserve and protect your creek and its tributaries. A "Friends of Goose Creek" group, for example, could unite your neighbors for stream clean ups, stream monitoring, and strategic planting of trees and shrubs (riparian buffers). These activities will help to improve and ensure the quality of your water.



**Stencil your Storm Drains** with signs stating "Don't Pollute: This Drain Flows to the Chesapeake Bay (or the name of your nearest creek)." A great public awareness project for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.



**Fertilize With Care** If you fertilize your lawn, learn what kind of grass you have. This determines the best time to add needed nutrients. Most fertilizing should be done in late summer or fall. Overfertilizing is a major source of water pollution; fertilizer adds nutrients to the water which encourages algae growth. Use herbicides and pesticides sparingly and according to directions. Call the Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District Office in Leesburg **(703) 771-8395** to request a FREE copy of "You and Your Land: A Homeowner's Guide for the Potomac River Watershed." It's a 78-page booklet jam packed with practical information on caring for your property. \*

— Maria Ruth

training workshops call the Loudoun Soil &

*"Meet Your Creek" and the Loudoun County Stream Monitoring Program is a partnership between the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the Audubon Naturalist Society, the Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District, the North Fork Goose Creek and Catoclin Creek Watershed Committees. Information on these groups is available via the Internet at [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org).*

# 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.

### MONITORING PROTOCOL PRACTICUM

**Sunday, April 11 (2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)** *Meet at the Purcellville Library.* 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.)** *Leesburg Safety Center.* Sign up required.

**Section 2: Sunday, April 18 (4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.)** *Leesburg Safety Center.* Sign up required.

Before being sent into the field, all current and future Stream Monitoring Project team leaders are required 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 the quiz will qualify as a team leader. When registering, specify the session you wish to attend.

## 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

If neither of those streams are available are you

**List the Stream you are interested in monitoring:**

1st Choice	2nd Choice

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 Naturalist's Programs*

**Sunday, April 25, 4-6 p.m. at Banshee Reek's Park** Take an **ADVENTURE WALK** with one of the LWC's volunteer naturalists at Banshee Reeks Park outside of Leesburg, VA. Discover this beautiful jewel in Loudoun County's park system. Hopefully we will see beaver, hear birds, watch fox, explore Goose Creek and maybe even find some surprises. At this time of year we should be able to find many different types of wildflowers in bloom. This is an exploration adventure. Come prepared to observe, wonder and learn as we wander through out Banshee's 700 acres. Previous explorers have found bear tracks, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, many different types of insects and other creatures too numerous to name. Weather will not slow us down so come dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to show us. Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, pencil and field journal. This walk is designed for people 8-12 years of age. There is no fee for this adventure.

**Saturday, May 1, 1-2 p.m., at the Purcellville Library, upstairs room** 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 years. Find out exactly what it takes to be a real rehabilitator, learn about the commitment and steps that you must complete in order to become legally licensed and truly help injured and abandoned wildlife. This presentation is for MATURE young people, teenagers and adults. This is an informational meeting and is not intended for younger children. There is no fee for this presentation.

**Wednesday, May 12 & 19, 4-5 p.m. at the Pottery by Hand Studio** Design and develop your own **BIRDBATH OUT OF CLAY** with Hanna Ball in her Lincoln studio. This birdbath will require two 1-1-1/2 hour sessions to complete as it will be painted and fired to make a permanent bath. There is a fee of \$20/ person for the workshops payable to Ms. Ball at the beginning of the first class. This class is designed for people ages 6 and older. Adults and parent/child partners are welcome.

**Sunday, May 23, 3-5 p.m., at the Bear's Den** Take an **ADVENTURE WALK** with one of the LWC's volunteer naturalists to Bear's Den on the Appalachian Trail. This is a mildly strenuous walk over rough terrain with a rapid elevation gain over a short distance (1 mile one way). Bear's Den provides a lovely view of the Shenandoah River and Clark County. You will see some unusual rock formations and geological features. Weather will not slow us down so come dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to show us. Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, pencil and field journal. This walk is designed for people 8 years of age and older. There is a substantial drop off on this trail. All children must be kept under close supervision by their accompanying adult. There is no fee for this adventure.

**Saturday, June 26, 9-10:30 a.m., at Banshee Reeks Park** Take an **ADVENTURE WALK** with one of the LWC's volunteer naturalists at Banshee Reeks Park outside of Leesburg, VA. Discover this beautiful jewel in Loudoun County's park system. Hopefully we will see beaver, hear birds, watch fox, explore Goose Creek and maybe even find some surprises. This is an exploration adventure. Come prepared to observe, wonder and learn as we wander through out Banshee's 700 acres. Previous explorers have found bear tracks, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, many different types of insects and other creatures too numerous to name. Weather will not slow us down so come dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to show us. Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, pencil and field journal. This walk is designed for people 6-8 years of age. There is no fee for this adventure.

**Sunday, July 25, 5-7 p.m., at Banshee Reeks Park** Take an **ADVENTURE WALK** with one of the

*Continued on page 8*

*Programs...Continued from page 7*

LWC's volunteer naturalists at Banshee Reeks Park outside of Leesburg, VA. Discover this beautiful jewel in Loudoun County's park system. Hopefully we will see beaver, hear birds, watch fox, explore Goose Creek and maybe even find some surprises. This is an exploration adventure. Come prepared to observe, wonder and learn as we wander through out Banshee's 700 acres. Previous explorers have found bear tracks, Red-Headed Woodpeckers, many different types of insects and other creatures too numerous to name. Weather will not slow us down so come dressed for whatever Mother Nature decides to show us. Please bring snacks, water, binoculars, pencil and field journal. This walk is designed for people 8 years of age and older. There is no fee for this adventure.

***Space is limited for all of these programs.***

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

Suzanne DeSaix is scheduling additional **ART CLASSES** for this summer to include botanical sketching and animal art. Her studio is finally nearing completion and she is planning on taking her students on field trips to local nature preserves as well. Watch this space for further announcements.

Check in the Loudoun County's Parks and Recreation Summer Schedule of Classes for NATURE CAMPS taking place at Banshee Reeks and Claude Moore Parks. There will be a number of camps for children in different age groups including more advanced camps for middle school students. Well-known local naturalists such as Phil Daley, Meredith Breed and John DeMaris are teaching these camps.



Here are some interesting magazines for young readers. We have tried to list approximate ages for reference purposes. Some of this information is from the "Parent's Guide to Children's Media" published by Shenandoah University.

**Wild Outdoor World (WOW)** for Ages 8-12

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

\$14.95 for 5 issues

1-888-301-5437

*This magazine is designed for kids who want to learn about the natural world, particularly North American wildlife and habitat.*

**National Geographic World** for Ages 8-14

National Geographic Society

\$17.95 for 12 issues

1-800-647-5463

*This colorful and engaging magazine covers nonfiction topics such as outdoor adventure, sports, foreign geography, science, technology and natural history.*

*Continued on page 9*



# *Young Naturalist's Activity Page*

## GROWING GREAT GOURDS

Are you interested in a fun warm weather project? Try raising some gourds. Birdhouse gourds are easy to grow and provide the added benefit of being wonderful material for crafts and birdhouses. When gourds are properly dried, they are tough and long lasting, making good homes for your feathered friends.

Gourds are vines that need a sunny location with room to spread out. Some people like to grow them against a fence or wall so that the vines can climb. The gourds take 4 to 6 months to mature. To get a jump on the growing season you can start your seeds indoors about 4 weeks before planting time (in Loudoun County that is about April 15<sup>th</sup>). Gourds need plenty of moisture to grow, so keep them well mulched and watered.

Harvest your gourds by snipping (check with an adult first) the stem before the first frost arrives. You want to handle the gourds gently so that they aren't bruised. Set them out on layers of newspaper in a dry place like a garage. Rotate them often. You can also hang them. It will take 3 months to a year for the gourds to completely dry.

Sometimes as they dry they develop a gray-black mold on their surface. This is part of the natural drying process and can be cleaned off later. If, however, any of the gourds become soft or mushy, they should be tossed immediately. Put them on your compost heap.

Gourds are ready to be worked on when you hear their seeds rattle as you shake the gourd. Clean the outside with soapy water and a steel pad. You can then drill (ask an adult for help) an entrance hole for your bird friends. Holes should be 1-1/4" for wrens, 1-1/2" for bluebirds and 2-1/2" for purple martins. It is best to make some small holes in the bottom for drainage. Scoop the seeds out through the opening that you have drilled. You can then decorate the gourds any way that you want! Use non-toxic paints (latex hobby paints work well) and be imaginative. If you own a wood burning set you can etch patterns on your gourds. A thin coating of varnish will help protect the gourd from rotting.

Suspend the gourd birdhouse in a likely location using string or wire to hang it. If you are trying to attract purple martins, you need to hang a number of gourd homes together (at least 4-6). Purple martins like to nest in groups.

Because of destruction of habitat, cavities for nesting are more difficult to find. By growing gourds and turning them into birdhouses, you will be helping your feathered friends find suitable nesting sites while you have a good time! \*

*Of Interest...Continued from page 8*

### **Ranger Rick**

for Ages 7 and up

National Wildlife Federation

\$17 for 12 issues

1-800-611-1599

*This magazine is filled with beautiful photographs and interesting facts, ideas, craft projects and articles.*

### **Your Big Backyard**

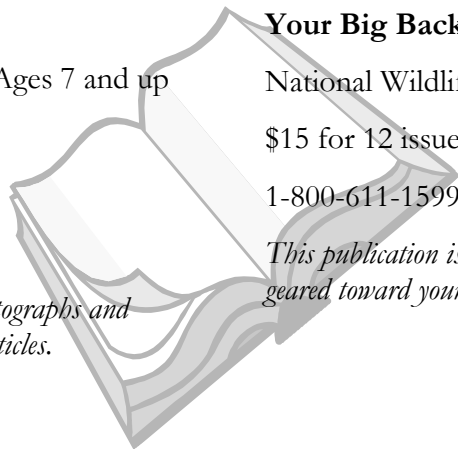
for Ages 3-6

National Wildlife Federation

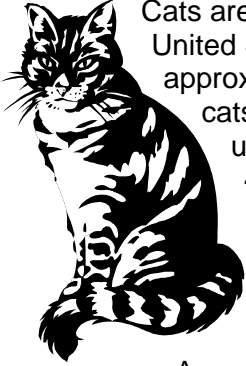
\$15 for 12 issues

1-800-611-1599

*This publication is one of the few magazines that is truly geared toward young children and is excellent for early readers.*



# The Impact of Pets on Wildlife



Cats are the most popular pets in the United States and now number approximately 66 million. Many of those cats are allowed to roam unsupervised. It is estimated that 40 million pet cats are outside part or all of the time. Combine that figure with an estimated 60 million stray and feral cats and the numbers become staggering.

A research study done in Great Britain calculated that the island's 5 million house cats were responsible for the death of approximately 70 million animals and birds annually (*Journal of Zoology* 212:439-455, 1987). That is a death toll of 14 creatures per cat per year. Extrapolate those numbers to the estimated 100 million free-roaming cats in the United States and even the most relaxed pet owner should see cause for concern. Other research studies indicate that wildlife and bird deaths caused by cats may be even greater! (*NWRA Quarterly* 12(3): 14-15, 1994)

There is no doubt that there are other contributing causes to the decline of bird populations throughout the United States such as habitat destruction and the use of pesticides. However, the aggressive predation that is characteristic of even the most docile and well fed of cats is a definite cause as well. Cats are non-native predators and their impact on native wildlife and birds is just now being acknowledged.

Cat predation is the number one cause of admission into many wildlife centers. In many areas, cats cause more injuries than cars, pesticides, oil spills and all other causes. Victims of cat attacks stand little chance of recovery even with proper care because of the massive internal injuries that occur and because of the life threatening bacterial infections that take hold secondary to bite wounds.

Interestingly enough, little work has been done on the effect of dogs on native wildlife and bird populations. Anecdotally, there are owner's accounts of retrievers bringing baby animals home, veterinarian's stories of treating dogs returning from roaming with blood on their coats, farmer's tales of dogs chasing livestock and

wildlife and state biologist's reports of slaughter in winter deer yards caused by dogs.

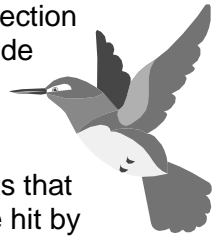
A number of field studies have been done on the effect of predation on ground nesting birds. When predators were reduced in the study area by 50%, gamebird populations increased 100% or more the subsequent year. The increase in bird numbers was attributed to decreased predation of nesting birds and eggs. It can easily be inferred that adding ree-roaming cats and dogs to an area would cause a substantial decline in the numbers of resident birds and wildlife.

Predation by pets is becoming both a local and national concern. Organizations such as the American Bird Conservancy have initiated "Cat Indoors!" (<http://birdsource.cornell.edu/Conservation/cats/index.html>) a campaign for safer birds and cats. Many local jurisdictions have established leash laws to help decrease the incidence of free roaming dogs. For example, Loudoun County has a leash law that requires dogs to be on leash whenever they are off of their owner's property. Some localities (Alexandria, VA) have even initiated leash laws for cats.

There are many practical reasons to contain roaming pets above and beyond the protection of wildlife and birds. Those reasons include both public and pet health concerns such as the containment of rabies, prevention of dog bite injuries and the extension of your pet's life. Dogs and cats that are allowed to roam are more likely to be hit by cars, attacked by bigger animals and contract fatal diseases (Feline Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency virus, Rabies, Parvo virus, etc.).

Pet owners need to be aware of the damage that their pets can cause and accept responsibility for keeping their animals under direct supervision. Local birds, wildlife, livestock owners and your pet, will thank you! \*

— Leslie Sinn, DVM





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**"THE COMPLETE ANGLER" BOOK-SIGNING AND SLIDE SHOW - Tuesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m. at The Hill School.** 130 S. Madison St., Middleburg. James Prosek, who retraced Izaak Walton's footsteps, will present a lecture, slide show, and exhibit and sign his new book on fly-fishing. The program is co-sponsored by The Book Chase in Middleburg and the Loudoun chapter of the Izaak Walton League to benefit their conservation scholarship fund.

**BIRDS: MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT THEIR SURVIVAL - Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library.** George Fenwick, head of the American Bird Conservancy, describes the threats birds face every day, from loss of habitat to predators. Over half our bird species spend time outside the United States in countries that are rapidly losing habitat and still use DDT. Some of these birds are declining at rates that threaten their existence. Mr. Fenwick will explain how we can help.

**LEARNING LOCAL TREES - Thursday, April 29, 4:00-6:00p.m. at the Smithsonian Naturalist Center.** Carrie Blair, a member of the LWC and past president of the Piedmont Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will show slides of commonly used landscape trees and shrubs, as well as the both the native and introduced common species that can be found in our local forests. The presentation will include a short discussion of natural plant succession, explaining how our botanically rich area has evolved and adapted since man's removal of much of the natural tree canopy. This program is sponsored by the Smithsonian. Space is limited and sign-up is required: call Sharon Lanham at the Naturalist Center (703) 779-9714.

**BIRDING ALONG THE W&OD: A BIRD WALK AT CLARK'S GAP - Saturday, May 1, at 8 a.m.** Join Jack Hugus, Karin MacDowell, and the LWC for a bird walk on the W&OD Trail near Leesburg, looking for warblers, thrashers, vireos, chats, orioles, and scarlet tanagers. Sign-up required: call Joe Coleman at (540)554-2542.

**GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE: ATTRACTING SONGBIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES - Tuesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library.** Loudoun County's Craig Tufts, author of wildlife books, chief naturalist for the National Wildlife Federation, and for 25 years head of their Backyard Wildlife Habitat program, will show slides and discuss how attractive plants and shrubs can bring birds and butterflies to your back yard. This program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library and the Loudoun County Master Gardeners.

**NIGHT SOUNDS OF THE APPALACHIANS - Tuesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library.** An entertaining introduction to the hoots, howls, and peeps of night in the mountains and to the creatures that make them. Kevin Dodge, director of the Natural Resources and Wildlife Technology program at Garrett (MD) Community College, brings slides, sounds, and stories to an audience-participation program for all ages. This program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library.

### WATCH FOR FUTURE EVENTS, INCLUDING:

**Wildflower Walk & Picnic at the MacDowell's - July 24.**

**3rd Annual Butterfly Count - August 7.**

**Insects of the Night at Banshee Reeks - August 21.**

*The date on your mailing label indicates when your membership expires.*

*Address Service Requested*

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Purcellville, VA 20132-2088

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