

Habitat Herald

A Publication of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

Volume V, Issue 1

Winter 1999-2000

In this Issue:

- 1** Forests: The Last Defense
- 2** A Special Thank You
- 3** Feeding Birds in Winter
- 4** 1999 Christmas Bird Count
- 5** Stream Monitoring Classes & Programs
- 7** Young Naturalist's Programs
- 8** Backyard Birding
- 9** Young Naturalist Receives Award
- 10** Mark Your Calendars!

Articles in the *Habitat Herald* are published for the information of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy members. Suggestions and comments should be mailed to:

Leslie McCasker
c/o Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
PO Box 2088
Purcellville, VA 20134.

© 2000 Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. To reprint any or all of *Habitat Herald*, please contact Leslie McCasker. Permission will generally be granted if appropriate credit is

FORESTS: THE LAST DEFENSE



Long ago nearly every mile of every stream and creek in Loudoun County ran clean and pure, protected by a dense mantle of mature trees. After two centuries of agriculture and, now, thirty years of intense residential development, most of this forest has been cut down or saved only as thin strips at stream-side. These remaining trees and the ones that we've been able to plant along the waterways are the only buffer between pollution and the sensitive aquatic ecosystem.

Riparian forests, the trees that grow along the streams, intercept and filter nutrient runoffs from lawns, golf courses, and agriculture. We've all read of the horrifying effects of chicken-farming on the Chesapeake Bay, but in a smaller way every drop of running water in our county is affected by what happens around it.

Riparian forests intercept and filter nutrients and other pollutants and up to ninety percent of sediment, phosphorous, and nitrates. They lower the water temperature ten to twenty degrees below the temperatures of streams without wooded shelter; an increase of only four degrees can destroy or cripple the life in the water. These stream buffers block flooding by stabilizing the banks and acting as a sponge to help soak up excess water. And woods along the streams welcome wildlife, from dam-building beavers to the smallest aquatic organisms, as they contribute to our own quality of life by providing havens in our increasingly busy world.

To help, join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy as it works to reforest our stream banks and preserve our threatened waterways. Farmers and part-time farmers can take advantage of the generous agricultural cost-share programs, with reimbursement for up to one hundred percent of

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.

You can also visit us at: www.loudounwildlife.org

Contact Information:

Name	Phone	E-Mail
President		
Joe Coleman	(540) 554-2542	wcolem@erols.com
Vice President		
Fred Fox	(540) 554-4844	ffox@osmre.gov
Secretary		
Bruce Hopkins (Acting)	(540) 338-4523	Bhopwe@aol.com
Treasurer		
Leslie McCasker	(540) 338-2133	teddbear@erols.com
Backyard/Schoolyard Habitat Committee Chair		
Vacant		
Children's Programs Committee Chair		
Leslie Sinn	(540) 338-9301	nvsinnl@nv.cc.va.us
Fundraising Committee Chair		
Vacant		
Membership Committee Chair		
L. McCasker (Acting)	(540) 338-2133	teddbear@erols.com
Parks and Recreation Programs Committee Chair		
Phil Daley	(540) 338-6528	phidaley@aol.com
Public Education Committee Chair		
Gerry Adams	(703) 327-4347	gadams@webtv.net
Public Relations Committee Chair		
Vacant		
Public Policy Committee Chair		
Joe Coleman (Acting)	(540) 554-2542	wcolem@erols.com
Stream Monitoring Program Committee Chair		
Fred Fox (Acting)	(540) 554-4844	ffox@osmre.gov
Webmaster		
Denise Kirwan	(703) 327-4205	kirwantech@mediasoft.net

**A
SPECIAL
THANK YOU
FROM THE
PRESIDENT:**

The
Loudoun

Wildlife Conservancy's mission is the preservation and proliferation of wildlife habitat. Faced with the loss of much of this beautiful and special county, many of us said enough is enough!

With more than two hundred members and over 400 households on our mailing list, LWC was in a position to play a major role in accomplishing a number of initiatives to preserve wildlife habitat. Even more impressive, especially when compared to similar organizations, LWC has a core of at least 50 people who actively work to make a difference. A few of our notable successes include:

- Banshee Reeks being set aside as a nature preserve and natural area.
- Beginning a "Young Naturalist" series of programs for children and young adults.
- Creation of the loudounwildlife.org website.
- Assisting in the creation of the *Do I Have to Mow All That* informational flier.
- Continuation of our educational programs (averaging over 80 attendees per program).
- Monitoring and protecting our streams (with the assistance of a Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Grant), through:
 - ♦ Educating the public on the importance of protecting our streams
 - ♦ Planting over 750 trees along a stream at Ida Lee

Continued on page 3

Special Notice:

Due to a problem with the delivery of our Holiday flier, quite a few people did not have a chance to take advantage of our gift and discounted memberships. Because of this, we are extending our offer through the end of January. Please take advantage of this opportunity — a membership will make a great *Year 2000 Gift* for a friend or even for yourself!

A Thank You...*Continued from page 2*

Park

- ♦ Developing and presenting a stream monitoring slide show
- ♦ Developing a database of our stream monitoring results
- ♦ Creating a "Saving Loudoun's Waters" display
- ♦ Organizing and presenting "The Importance of Protecting Loudoun's Streams" to public officials.
- Continued production of our quarterly Habitat Herald newsletter.
- Participation in the North American Butterfly Association's annual July 4th Count and our third annual Waterford Butterfly Count.
- Participation in the National Audubon Society's 100th Christmas Bird Count and our third annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count.

All of these successes and others occurred through the efforts of an organization that is totally comprised of volunteers, and with the exception of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund Grant, funded by you—our members. I'm sure that there are few community organizations that can boast of doing so much — **THANK YOU!! J**

Forests... *Continued from page 1*

the cost to fence livestock away from streams and plant trees. Plant trees on your property. Leave existing trees and understory along streams undisturbed, for the benefit of both the water and the wildlife. Leave lawns and ground cover high with only occasional mowing; grasses too can help filter pollution.

Keep a watchful eye on developers in your area, as they clear land and operate machinery near streams. Encourage your elected officials to support regulations for protecting water-side areas and to enforce the existing protection laws.

For many areas, it's too late. For us, there's still time. We can preserve our riparian woodlands and plant new protective tree stands, saving our clean water and the wildlife that depends on it, and making a better place to live for us all. J

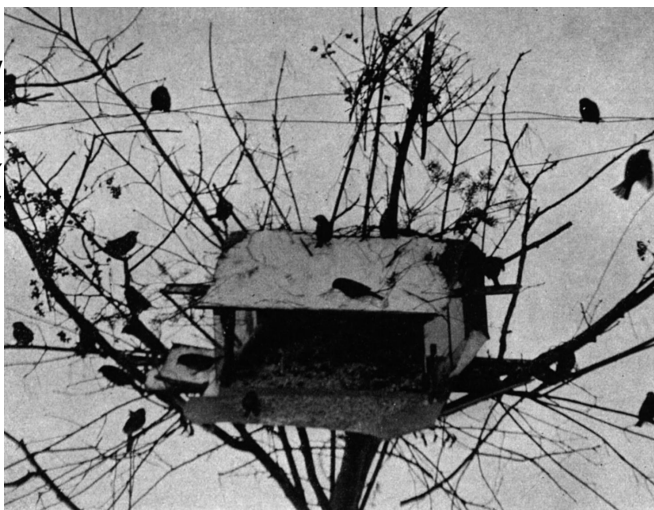
— Fred Fox

Feeding Birds in Winter

Occasionally people argue that feeding birds is harmful — *it ruins their natural foraging instinct or providing supplemental food disrupts the birds' natural migratory patterns* — not true!

Birds that visit feeders either live here all year or spend their winters here to escape the harsher winter conditions farther north.

Despite what you may read or hear, it is okay to feed wild birds. At certain times, food from our feeders can mean the difference between life and death. When the daytime high temperatures remain in the single digits, during winter storms, or in times of heavy snow cover, some birds may not be able to find enough food to meet their nutritional needs. If they have a dependable source of food that doesn't require



long-distance travel or searching they can survive.

You can even take a winter vacation, your birds won't starve. They will search for natural foods or switch to another feeder. And when you return and fill your feeders, after a few days — your birds will return.

So, if you've ever worried that feeding the birds in winter is doing more harm than good, stop worrying. Except for those infrequent times of extreme conditions, the birds

are quite capable of surviving and do not rely on us to survive. Even though the birds enjoy our generosity and will gladly accept our handouts, they can usually survive without them. J

— Leslie McCasker

1999 Christmas Bird Count

As 1999 drew to an end, the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy held its *Third Annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count* as part of the National Audubon Society's *100th Christmas Bird Count*. These surveys are held throughout the country and the results are used to better understand bird populations and dynamics and the health of individual species.

The count began on a cold note with temperatures in the teens on the day after Christmas. While it did warm up to the lower forties later in the day, the wind picked up as well, making us feel almost as cold as we had earlier in the day. We saw 85 species this year, somewhat fewer species than the 91 species last year, and 22,326 individuals compared to more than 40,000 in 1998. Last year's count included over 30,000 starlings, compared to only 7,414 this year.

There were some pleasant but unusual sightings this year. The most unusual bird, the Common Redpoll, was seen at a feeder early in the morning. Some other sightings unusual for this area at this time of year included a snow goose and a merlin. A complete list of birds sighted can be found on our website www.loudounwildlife.org.



A total of 51 people participated in the Central Loudoun Count this year. The participants were divided into teams and sent into the field to count every wild bird they could find. Our territory had a 15 mile diameter, covering 177 square miles of countryside, and was divided into 12 sectors.

We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to these 51 hardy people. We couldn't have done it without you:

Cemile Bingol, *Tom Bjorkman*, Kathy Brown, *Lucas Brown*, Ernie Carmevale, *Ryan Chornock*, Thomas Chornock, *Roger Clapp*, Joe Coleman, *Connie Cook*, Kacy Cook, *Richard Cook*, Ellie Daley, *Phil Daley*, Marcia DeGarmo, *John Drummond*, Allen Ernst, *Susan Ernst*, Elizabeth Evans, *Rachelle Fore*, Jack Hugus, *Lesley Julian*, Mike Kelly, *Denise Kirwan*, Bev Leeuwenburg, *Dodie Lewis*, Robert Lyon, *Robert MacDowell*, Karin MacDowell, *Andy Martin*, Robert McDowell, *Lori Markoff*, Barbara McKee, *Alex Merrit*, Phil Merrit, *Paul Miller*, Joan Nowicke, *Chris Ozemko*, Jeff Pfoutz, *Jerry Schaefer*, Darrell Schwalm, *Patti Selly*, Bob Sherfy, *Pat Sherfy*, Stanwyn Shetler, *Anne Strahan*, Walt Thomas, *Jackie Thurman*, Craig Tufts, *Warren Wagner*, and Cathy Williams. J

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Honored by Leesburg Government

On October 12, the Leesburg Town Council, Mayor James Clem, and the Leesburg Environmental Advisory Commission presented the *1999 Award for Community Improvement* to the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and several partner organizations. The award recognized LWC, its members, and partners for their successful riparian tree-planting project at the town's Ida Lee Park.

Project volunteers planted 950 seedlings of 10 native species, and helped stabilize and restore 1,400 feet of stream in the park. Park maintenance staff further enhanced the buffer area by establishing a 100-foot wide "no mow area" along the stream. The project was funded, in part, by a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund.

The Chairman of the project committee, LWC Vice President Fred W. Fox, accepted award certificates and a check for \$250 on behalf of the project committee, which included LWC members Karin MacDowell, Phil Daley, Earl Hower, Gem Bingol, and Pat McIlvaine. Committee member affiliates included the Loudoun Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, and Virginia Department of Forestry.

Other project partners were the Leesburg Tree Commission, Leesburg Department of Parks and Recreation, Leesburg Department of Public Works-Street Maintenance Division, Leesburg-Loudoun Arbor Day Committee, Boy and Girl Scouts, and more than 40 citizen volunteers. J

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 is an indicator of overall ecosystem health. Most of Loudoun County's streams support diverse communities of aquatic life, but in the nation's third-fastest growing county, these irreplaceable resources are under daily threat of destruction and need constant vigilance. Streams and shoreline habitats provide food, shelter, and travel corridors for animals and many of the migratory bird species that make their seasonal journeys across our landscape.

Stream Monitoring classes are taught by Dave Harrelson of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; and Cliff Fairweather of Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). As our volunteer base grows, the LWC, in partnership with ANS, Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District and the North Fork Goose Creek and Catocin Watershed Committees, plans to establish stream monitoring teams for every watershed in Loudoun County. These programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Virginia Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Please join us for one of our sessions.

They are educational, good for the environment, and fun for the entire family.

INTRODUCTION TO STREAM MONITORING AND MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION

Saturday, February 5 (12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.) Leesburg Public Safety Center (police station), 65 Plaza St., NE, Leesburg. *Sign up required.*

This session will begin with our *Living Waters* slide presentation to introduce you to Loudoun's streams and the creatures that live in them. The program continues with instruction on identifying benthic macro-invertebrates, boneless creatures that live under flowing water. 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). The session is classroom only.

MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION REVIEW AND QUIZ

Saturday, February 12 (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Location to be determined. *Sign up required.*

All stream monitors are encouraged to take this short review and quiz to test your recognition of aquatic macro-invertebrates. Team leaders must pass the quiz for recertification for the 2000 monitoring season.

HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Saturday, March 4 (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Meet in the parking lot of the Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District, 30-H Catocin Circle SE, Leesburg. *Sign up required.*

Using the protocol developed by the Audubon Naturalist Society for Piedmont streams, this session will focus on measuring physical data and evaluating key habitat features that help identify healthy stream habitat and warning signs of declining stream quality. This training will be useful for completing the stream evaluation forms used throughout our monitoring season.

MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION I

Saturday, April 8 (10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) Purcellville Library. *Sign up required.*

Benthic macro-invertebrates, boneless creatures that live under flowing water are important indicators of aquatic ecosystem health. Learn how to identify the major groups of these organisms, including aquatic insects and crustaceans, to the taxonomic level of Order (e.g., *Ephemera* or Mayflies). This session will be in the classroom with an optional field trip to a nearby stream.

STREAM MONITORING PROTOCOL PRACTICUM

Saturday, April 22 (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) Meet in the parking lot of the Smithsonian Naturalist Center on Sycolin Road, near Leesburg airport. *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.

FAMILY-LEVEL IDENTIFICATION (Optional curriculum) Pre-Requisite - Macro-Invertebrate Identification

January 23 — Mayflies

February 6 — Caddisflies

February 27 — Beetles and True Flies

Saturdays (1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.) Stuart Hill Center, Manassas National Battlefield Park. *Sign up required.*

All stream monitors are encouraged to acquire identification skills to the family level. With these skills, we can improve our sampling protocol and evaluation or the overall health of local streams. These classes are sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Please contact the instructor, Cliff Fairweather — (703) 803-8400, to sign up.

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
30-H Catoctin Circle, SE
Leesburg, VA 20175

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

For more information on any of the programs please contact:

Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District	(703) 777-2075
Loudoun Stream Monitoring Project — Fred Fox	(540) 554-4844
Audubon Naturalist Society — Cliff Fairweather	(703) 803-8400

Young Naturalist's Programs

Space is limited for all of these programs.

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

BASIC BIRDING Saturday, January 23rd & February 6th, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Back by popular demand! Join Phil and Ellie Daley at their lovely country home in Lincoln, VA for an introduction to birding. Learn to identify the common birds seen in our area. Handouts will be provided. Please bring binoculars and bird field guides, if you have them. We will be taking some walks through the Lincoln area and will relax with hot chocolate and cookies afterwards. Come dressed for the weather. This is an excellent family activity. Space is very limited.

CONTACT: Phil Daley (540) 338-6528.

WINTER WALK AT BANSHEE REEKS PARK Friday, February 5th, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Hike at Banshee Reeks Park with naturalist Phil Daley. We will explore upland areas along ridges and forests. With the leaves gone it should be a good opportunity to see birds and wildlife. Come prepared to hike in the cold weather. *This hike is designed for young people 8 to 12 years of age.*

CONTACT: Phil Daley (540) 338-6528.

ADVANCED BIRDING Saturday, February 13th, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Join Phil & Ellie Daley and Leslie Sinn for the next level of birding class. We will be learning about species in our area that are more difficult to identify. We will discuss *The Great Backyard Bird Count* taking place February 18th-21st and how you can participate, and we will show you how to log on to the website to enter your data. A field trip is also a possibility, depending on the level of interest. Please bring binoculars and field guides.

CONTACT: Phil Daley (540) 338-6528.

SPRING FLOWER WALK AT BANSHEE REEKS Saturday, April 8th, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Discover the wide variety of spring wildflowers that speckle our countryside. Join us on a field trip to explore this beautiful park, looking for the early spring wildflowers that enrich the Goose Creek watershed area at this time of year. If we're lucky, we may even catch a glimpse of early migrating birds.

CONTACT: Susan Payne (540) 788-4056

Watch for announcements about these upcoming programs:

- **NATURE SKETCHING AND WATER COLORS**
- **CANOE EXPLORATION TRIP**
- **STREAM MONITORING FOR KIDS**

Don't forget to check our website for additional information:

www.loudounwildlife.org

Your help and suggestions are always appreciated !

Young Naturalist's Page

Backyard Birding

If you would like to become involved in an activity that you can participate in at any time of year, in any location, and in all types of weather — try birding! Birding is something that people of all ages enjoy. You can go birding on your own or with family or friends. There are even organized birding clubs.

All you need to get started is a pair of binoculars and a field guide to local birds. A couple of good books to start with are Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies* and the Audubon Society's *Field Guide to North American Birds*. These books and many other books on birds are available at the local library. You can start by putting out a feeder and trying to identify the birds that visit. In the wintertime, birds are easier to spot because of the lack of leaf cover on most of the trees and their willingness to come in close for the food available at your feeder.

If you aren't sure about starting out on your own, you can get help from experienced birders by participating in organized bird counts. The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy participates in the National Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count—join us next year. Beginners of all ages are welcome and are paired with experienced birders. Participating in birding classes is another option. The LWC will be offering a *Basic Birding* class for young people in January with a follow-on *Advanced Birding* class in February. Please check the *Young Naturalist's Programs* listing and contact information on the previous page for more information.

If you like a challenge, or would like to help in a bird research project:

The American Birding Association sponsors a Young Birder Contest. For this contest, kids have to keep a field notebook in which they record their bird sightings. The contestants are judged on their entries and the amount of improvement that they show over the course of the year. You can access the ABA website at www.americanbirding.org.

BirdSource and the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory sponsor a number of birding events including the Great Backyard Bird Count, Bird Feeder Watch, Pigeon Watch and a number of other activities throughout the year. The BirdSource website can be accessed at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu> and the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory website can be accessed at <http://birds.cornell.edu>.

Good luck and have fun birding! J

— Leslie Sinn

Banshee Reeks Volunteer Work Day

Join fellow LWC members on our first workday at Banshee Reeks on Saturday, February 27th at 1:00 p.m. We will start small — several hours building brush piles, maybe marking several trails and checking out any needed repairs in the volunteer / nature camp enter. If you are interested and want to help make a difference, please call Phil Daley at (540) 338-6528.

Stream Monitoring Grant Awarded to Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality recently announced that the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy was the recipient of a Citizen Monitoring Grant for \$2,812. The LWC was awarded the grant funds in support of the Loudoun Stream Monitoring Project's volunteer activities. The funds will be used to purchase new equipment, continue our training workshops, expand our monitoring network, and publish a newsletter focusing on water quality issues. J

Young Naturalist Receives 4-H Citizenship Award

Lauren White was awarded the 4-H Citizenship Award at 4-H Achievement Night, November 6th, 1999. The award recognized Lauren's active participation to preserve Loudoun for future generations of young naturalists. Her efforts included speaking before the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and writing multiple letters to the editors of the local newspapers in support of keeping Banshee Reeks Park a natural area. She also participated in the Lincoln area clean-up sponsored by Keep Loudoun Beautiful. She is a certified stream monitor through LWC, Loudoun Soil and Conservation and the Audubon Naturalist Society, and a member of the Crooked Run Stream Monitoring Team. Lauren also attended meetings and spoke in favor of designating Lincoln Road (Rt. 722) as a Virginia Scenic By-Way.

There are approximately 500 children enrolled in 4-H; only 3 Citizenship Awards were given out in 1999.

CONGRATULATIONS LAUREN !

Further information about 4-H and their many programs can be obtained by contacting Marilyn Jarvis, 4-H Extension Agent at (703) 777-0373. J

!!

Would You Like to Continue Receiving This Newsletter?

If you are not already a member of LWC, you can join now by completing and returning the following form with your payment to:

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

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone:

(H) _____

(W) _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Fees:

(*membership runs from January 1- December 31)

q \$10 Student*

q \$30 Family*

q \$200 Individual Lifetime

q \$20 Individual*

q \$75 Corporate*

q \$300 Family Lifetime

q Additional Donation \$ _____

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Space is limited for many of these programs.

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

STARS AND CONSTELLATIONS – Tuesday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library. The Northern Virginia Astronomy Club, one of the largest astronomy clubs in the country, will introduce us to the wonders of the night sky. They will explain why the brightest stars in the sky are not really stars but our neighboring planets. They will also describe how the constellations got their names and why they were so important to us once upon a time. Come and enjoy this free program, sponsored by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Rust Library.

INTRODUCTION TO NATURE SKETCHING – Saturday, January 22 and January 29, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Smithsonian Naturalist Center. How many times have you been out in the field and observed a beautiful hawk or fox or flower and wished you could capture it in a drawing? In this two-session course for adults, Merri Nelson, well-known botanical illustrator and nature artist, will teach you the fundamentals of field sketching. The extensive exhibits at the Smithsonian Naturalist Center will give you an opportunity to practice the skills you will learn. **The fee for this class is \$70 for LWC members and \$80 for non-members.** For a small additional fee we will provide the supplies you will need.

SIGN-UP REQUIRED *CONTACT:* Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or wcolem@erols.com.

IDENTIFYING HAWKS: A DRIVING FIELD TRIP – Saturday, January 30, 2:30 p.m. to dusk. We will drive the back roads of Loudoun County with frequent stops, to find and identify the many hawks, and hopefully and owl or two, who winter over here.

SIGN-UP REQUIRED *CONTACT:* Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or wcolem@erols.com.

EAGLES: THEIR NATURAL HISTORY – Tuesday, February 15, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library. Keith Cline will describe the natural history of eagles and give us an idea of how they will fare now that they are scheduled to have their status changed from endangered to threatened. Just a couple of decades ago eagle populations had plummeted and it was rare to see one of these beautiful birds in the wild. When he worked with the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Keith monitored the health of these beautiful birds. Having spent days in the field observing eagles, Keith became one of the most knowledgeable people in Virginia on our national symbol. This free program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library.

FINDING VERNAL POOLS – Saturday, February 19, 10:00 a.m. As the days lengthen and temperatures begin to rise, certain frogs and salamanders begin to breed in vernal pools which quickly vanish as the seasons progress. Michael Hayselett, Virginia's expert on vernal pools, will lead us on a search for these fascinating and rapidly disappearing mini-ecosystems.

SIGN-UP REQUIRED *CONTACT:* Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or wcolem@erols.com.

IDENTIFYING HAWKS: A DRIVING FIELD TRIP – Saturday, March 4, 3:00 p.m. to dusk. We will drive the back roads of Loudoun County with frequent stops, to find and identify the many hawks, and hopefully and owl or two, who winter over here.

Sign-up required *Contact:* Phil Daley (540) 338-6528.

BETWEEN THE HILLS: A FIELD TRIP – Saturday, March 25, 9:00 a.m. The far northwestern corner of Loudoun County has remained rather natural. Join us as we explore the property the Leggett Foundation plans to develop as the Blue Ridge Center for Environment Studies.

SIGN-UP REQUIRED *CONTACT:* Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or wcolem@erols.com.

SPRING WILDFLOWERS: A FIELD TRIP – Saturday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Balls Bluff. Balls Bluff is home to a wide and fascinating variety of spring wildflowers. John DeMary, well-known local naturalist, will lead us on a field trip to explore this beautiful, wooded riverside park for the early spring wildflowers that enrich the Potomac River Valley early this year. We will also watch for early migrating birds.

SIGN-UP REQUIRED *CONTACT:* Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or wcolem@erols.com.

WATCHING BIRDS: A JOURNEY WITH JOHN TROTT – Tuesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library. Well-known photographer and columnist, John Trott, will describe the birds he has seen and photographed in his journeys. While his slides will concentrate on the birds he has seen in Northern Virginia, he will also describe birds he has seen in his childhood home of North Carolina and on his travels through the south. Besides writing a weekly column for the Loudoun Times-Mirror, John's articles and photographs have appeared in several magazines and field guides. This free program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library.

**Gift Membership
Offer**

Address Service Requested

**Purcellville, VA 20134-2088
P.O. Box 2088**

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy

RECYCLED PAPER

