

# Habitat Herald

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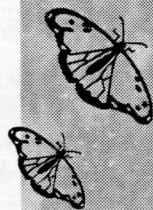
[www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)

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## Butterflies: Counting Flying Flowers



From coast to coast butterflies are preparing for and participating in the annual North American Butterfly Association's Fourth of July Butterfly Counts. These counts document the status, distribution, abundance and environmental health of North American butterfly populations. The annual counts began in 1975 with 29 events, sponsored by the Xerces Society, a key lepidoptera conservation organization that organized and compiled the counts for 18 years; their sponsorship was transferred to the North American Butterfly Association in 1993.

In 1999, 387 Butterfly Counts (*events*) were conducted in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Each count covers a standardized 15-mile diameter circle (177 square miles) and involves a one-day census of all adult butterflies sighted within that circle. Count participation ranges from one or two observers to hundreds. The number of counts is growing as butterfly watching becomes more popular.

Few Butterfly Counts are actually done on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The counts are timed to take advantage of peak periods for butterfly diversity. Most counts are held between June 9<sup>th</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup>, taking place at the same time each year. Comparisons of the results collected throughout the years can be used to monitor changes in populations and study the effects of weather and habitat changes on the butterflies.

To learn more about the counts and the North American Butterfly Association, check out its Web site at [www.naba.org](http://www.naba.org). The site features a map showing counts across the country during the past two years. It also lists each of the counts and the date of the count for 2000.

For more information about butterfly activities, refer to our calendar of events on page 7. And on pages 8-9, Bob Lyon has provided us with a chart of butterfly flight periods for Loudoun County.

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 Phil Daley.

You can also visit us at: [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org)

## A Word from the President on:

### SAVING NATURE: WHY?

#### My Farewell Column

Aldo Leopold, author of 'A Sand Country Almanac' and the father of modern naturalism, wrote, 'There are those who can live without wild things, and some who cannot... Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them.' He wrote those words 50 years ago. If anything, in spite of greater awareness and increased stewardship, the wild things are more threatened than ever. And truth be told, none of us can live without them.

I am neither a biologist nor a professional naturalist, simply an amateur observer. While I spend my working hours in an office, I spend my other hours watching and learning about nature, for many reasons. It is fun and can take my breath away. It causes me to stop what I'm doing and contemplate. It is a complex world, full of life and full of death. And from my observations and from my readings on nature, I have learned many things.

Whenever I see one of our stunning birds of prey, whether it's a magnificent eagle or our smallest falcon, the kestrel, soaring overhead, I am reminded how close we came to losing many of these birds forever because of our passion for controlling insects. There are few people today who do not believe that an eagle or a grizzly is worth preserving. But what about the smaller and especially the less-appealing animals? They don't inspire the same support, but nonetheless, they are part of an incredibly complex web.

Little did we realize that the DDT we sprayed on insects would rise up through the food chain and ultimately cause birds like eagles, peregrines and ospreys to hatch eggs so fragile they broke when sat on, even by a bird. A bird cannot hatch an egg without sitting on it. And who knows what DDT and many of the other pesticides were, and still are, doing to us? There is no doubt that while some insects are pests and need to be controlled, insects serve a purpose. Without insects life as we know it would not survive.

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*Saving Nature... from page 2*

Edward Wilson, a biology professor at Harvard and winner of the Pulitzer prize, explained in his book, 'The Diversity of Life,' that over half of all animal species existing on the planet today are insects. He wrote: 'The immense diversity of the insects and flowering plants combined is no accident. The two empires are united by intricate symbioses. The insects consume every anatomical part of the plants while dwelling on them in every nook and cranny. A large fraction of the plant species depend on insects for pollination and reproduction. Ultimately they owe them their very lives, because insects turn the soil around their roots and decompose dead tissue into the nutrients required for continued growth. So important are insects and other land-dwelling arthropods that if all were to disappear, humanity probably could not last more than a few months. Most of the amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals would crash to extinction about the same time. Next would go the bulk of the flowering plants and with them the physical structure of most forests and other terrestrial habitats of the world. The land surface would literally rot. As dead vegetation piled up and dried out, closing the channels of the nutrient cycle, other complex forms would die off, and with them all but a few remnants of the land vertebrates.'

Fortunately, we are learning. Much has changed in the last 20 years. Many of us garden because we love to grow vegetables for fresh food and flowers for their beauty. However, Sara Stein explains in her book, 'Noah's Garden; Restoring the Ecology of our Own Back Yards,' many of the flowers and shrubs we plant can not survive without our constant attention. As a result there has been a large movement to garden with native plants and to plant for wildlife.

Gardening for wildlife involves using plants that attract butterflies and birds. In fact, more and more people have learned to use native plants, experts at coping with our native pests and our weather. Lots of people have butterfly gardens. And when you garden for butterflies, when you add the flying flowers to your garden -- as my wife describes butterflies, goldfinches and hummingbirds -- you must use pesticides lightly, if at all.

Some of the caterpillars that eat our plants become some of our most beautiful butterflies. We've learned that those bug-zappers that had become so popular are almost worthless because, out of every hundred bugs that they attract and kill, only a few are pests and many are important pollinators. People are learning that it is not a bad idea to share the land with its natural residents.

Aldo Leopold, the father of modern land stewardship programs, also wrote, 'We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the esthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture. That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but often forgotten.'

In the early 17th century, when John Smith first came up the Potomac, he found a river teeming with wildlife. It ran clear and included fields of submerged aquatic vegetation. There was so much wildlife in and around the river that this was truly a land of plenty. The pristine Potomac was one of several rivers that supported the incredibly abundant Chesapeake. Today we're striving to bring that abundance back. We're planting forest buffer zones along our rivers and their tributaries.

At the same time, new settlers are coming out from the city and the suburbs. This new settler sees this world as safe and quiet, a world where the concept of community still exists. Many of them truly enjoy and value the wildlife that is here. However, all of us must work together to maintain the existing community and to include the land and its wild inhabitants as part of that community.

We need to learn to tolerate and share some of our bounty with our wildlife neighbors. It is much harder to restore something ruined and lost than to preserve it in the first place. We need to become stewards of our streams, our forests and our meadows and all that lives in them.

A passage from Bernd Heinrich's 'The Trees in My Forest' explains better than I could why we need to save the natural world that surrounds us. Bernd Heinrich is a professor of biology at the University of Vermont, twice nominated for the National Book Award for science, and the owner of a couple of hundred acres of forest in western Maine that he observes and harvests: 'Why do we need forest [or other wild areas]? There are many compelling reasons, but they are not generally tabulated in quarterly balance sheets. Ecosystem 'services' include air and water purification, flood control, erosion control, nutrient recycling, and pollination services. Ecologically, forest is natural habitat and most species on earth are adapted to it and require it. There have been and are many practical arguments for forest [and other wild areas] - practical in the material sense. Ultimately advocates for forests are motivated also by ethics rooted in our own psychological dependence on

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*Saving Nature... from page 3*

wilderness. Conservationists such as Aldo Leopold, E. O. Wilson, and John Muir; authors such as Thoreau ('in wilderness is the preservation of the world'); and politicians such as Teddy Roosevelt, who set a new concept on this earth (national parks), have all in their own way reaffirmed that like other animals we, too, need forest or other wilderness to live happy adapted lives. Like other species, we evolved in wilderness and although we are now able to satisfy many of our physical needs outside it (at least in the short term), psychologically we still need the vital diversity, complexity, grandeur, and beauty of wild places. We need to feel connected to something tangible that can be seen, smelled, tasted, that is much greater than our own fleeing existence. Call it religion. There are untold millions who believe in this religion although they may not come out and say so, mostly because its tenets are so deeply ingrained as to be taken for granted.... To me and others of this religion a wilderness made by God and/or by the mechanism of evolution is at least as, if not more, holy than a cathedral made by man, and to harm it is a desecration. I see through glimpses of this forest to feel inspired by a feeling of interconnectedness with the web of life. It gives me a dream. It is a realistic dream that is not destructive, and that all can take part in and enjoy the results."

A Jewish proverb holds that if you save one life, you save mankind. Similarly, by saving one species of animal or one piece of forest, we save the world.

—Joe Coleman

*During my four-year tenure as President of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, I believe the LWC has made a difference in Loudoun County, played a major role in saving Banshee Reeks, and educated many people on wildlife gardening and habitat preservation. I encourage you to keep striving to preserve the wildlife and habitat of Loudoun County. I thank you for all your work during those four years.*

## **A Visit to the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship**

On March 25 about 30 people met, at the invitation of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, for a tour of the new Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. This wonderful piece of land, about 900 acres, is owned by the Leggett Foundation and will be preserved for the future. It lies off Harpers Ferry Road in the far northwestern corner of Loudoun County and includes a mixture of upland forest, valley meadows and a couple of healthy streams and ponds.

While hiking over a fraction of the area we saw or heard red-winged blackbirds, song sparrows, field sparrows, cardinals and Eastern towhees. We were also delighted to see two wood ducks. In spite of our early spring, we were a bit early for most of the spring ephemerals, but we did note blooming spicebush (lots of it), putty-root orchids, goodyera and princess pine.

Guided by Michael Hayslett, head of the Vernal Pool Association of Virginia, we found spotted salamander and pickerel frog egg masses, and were serenaded with a duet by two adult pickerel frogs. There are several good vernal pools on the property as well as ponds and a stream, Piney Run.

For the present the property is not open to the public except by special invitation. Plans are afoot to use it as an outdoor classroom and a Boy Scout meeting area. Thanks to the generosity of Robert and Dee Leggett, the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship offers a wonderful addition to Loudoun County.

—Jody Lyon



# 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.

### **MACRO-INVERTEBRATE IDENTIFICATION I**

**Tuesday, August 22 (7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)** Leesburg Public Safety Center (Police Headquarters)  
65 Plaza St., NE.

*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.

**Note:** Experienced stream monitors are encouraged to attend ID classes at least once a year as a refresher.

### **STREAM MONITORING PROTOCOL PRACTICUM**

**Saturday, September 16 (10:00 a.m. - 12:30 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.

## 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?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Are you interested in being one of our Team Leaders?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Would you be interested in helping us with some of our administrative functions (typing, maintaining our database, or record-keeping)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

For more information on any of the programs please contact:

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



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Space is limited for many of these programs.*

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

**BUTTERFLIES: A SUMMER WORKSHOP, Saturday, July 22 at Oatlands Plantation and Sunday, July 23 at Airlie Center.** Join *Environmental Studies at Airlie* and the *Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy* for a workshop by Nate Erwin, the Manager of the Smithsonian's Insect Zoo, on butterflies, their biology, identification, gardening and conservation plus TWO Annual Butterfly Counts. This year's all day workshop will be held at Oatlands Plantation near Leesburg. The two separate butterfly counts will occur on July 23 and August 5 (*see below*).

**REGISTRATION AND FEE REQUIRED. CONTACT:** Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or [wcolem@erols.com](mailto:wcolem@erols.com) for more information or a flier.

**SUMMER WILDFLOWER WALK and PICNIC: Saturday, July 22, 5:00 p.m. near Waterford.** Join the MacDowell's on a walk through their stream-side meadow to view the many wild-flowers that thrive there in the summer, including some unusual wild orchids, the only specimens of this species known to bloom in Loudoun County. After the walk we will enjoy a picnic along the Catoctin Creek, a state Scenic River. Bring a picnic dinner and a folding chair or a blanket to sit on.

**CONTACT:** the MacDowell's at (540) 882-9000 if you have questions or need directions.

**ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT: Saturday, August 5 from 9:00 a.m. on.** Join LWC on its fourth annual butterfly count, centered in the Waterford area. Participants will be teamed up and sent into the field to count butterfly species in a given area. No experience is necessary, come out and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. This annual mid-summer count is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and the Xerces Society.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CONTACT:** Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or [wcolem@erols.com](mailto:wcolem@erols.com)

**BANSHEE'S BUGS, Sunday, August 27, 3:00 p.m.** Join Cliff Fairweather of the Audubon Naturalist Society on a field trip exploring the world of summer's insects in Banshee Reeks, near Leesburg. We'll watch for some fascinating insect behavior, listen to their sounds and even sniff a bug or two! We're likely to see dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies, beetles of all kinds and even an assassin bug or two.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CONTACT:** Phil Daley (540) 338-6528

**BIRDING THE LUCKETT'S AREA, Saturday, September 9, 8:00 a.m.** Join Jack Hugus and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a birding trip in the Lockett's area, an area historically rich in birds due to its proximity to the Potomac and its varied habitat. The group will search for fall migrants, including the many grassland birds and hawks that move through this area. Please bring binoculars. Karin MacDowell will assist and co-lead.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CONTACT:** Joe Coleman (540) 554-2542 or [wcolem@erols.com](mailto:wcolem@erols.com)

**HAWKS: Their Natural History and Migratory Habits, Tuesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Rust Library.** Liam McGranaghan, avid falconer and hawk bander, will describe the different hawks that migrate through our area every fall. He will describe how you can identify a hawk from their field marks, their behavior and the calls they make. He will bring a red-tailed hawk to this slide show. Hawk migration moves into full swing in September as thousands of these beautiful birds move south. In fact, many of them not only fly over Loudoun but stop over to feed and rebuild their strength. This program is co-sponsored by the Rust Library.

**IDENTIFYING HAWKS: A field trip at Snicker's Gap, Saturday, September 23, 2000, 10:00 a.m. at Snicker's Gap.** Join Liam McGranaghan and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy during the height of the Broad Wing Hawk migration as we learn how to identify hawks using their field marks and flight patterns. The parking lot at Snicker's Gap, where Route 7 crosses the Blue Ridge Mountains, is the closest hawk watching count site in our area. If the weather is right we should see several varieties of hawks as they migrate south. Phil Daley will assist and co-lead.

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED. CONTACT:** Phil Daley (540) 338-6528

Check our website for the latest information about current and future programs:

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

# Butterfly Flight Periods in Loudoun County

The following information was collected and compiled by Bob Lyon  
and is reprinted here with his permission

Scientific Name	Common Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Battus philenor</i>	Pipevine Swallowtail				••••	••	••••••	•••					
<i>Eurytides marcellus</i>	Zebra Swallowtail			••••••••	••••	••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
<i>Papilio polyxenes</i> (inc <i>kahli</i> )	Black Swallowtail			••••••••	••••	••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
<i>Papilio cresphonies</i>	Giant Swallowtail				••			••					
<i>Papilio glaucus</i>	Eastern Tiger Swallowtail			••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
<i>Papilio troilus</i>	Spicebush Swallowtail			••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
<i>Pontia protodice</i>	Checkered White								•		•	••••	
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Cabbage White		••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••
<i>Anthocharis midea</i>	Falcate Orangetip			••••									
<i>Colias philodice</i>	Clouded Sulphur				•	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••••••	••••	••••	••••	••
<i>Colias eurytheme</i>	Orange Sulphur				••••••••	••••••••	••••••~	••••••~	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
<i>Phoebis sennae</i>	Cloudless Sulphur								•			•	
<i>Eurema lisa</i>	Little Yellow										•		
<i>Eurema nicippe</i>	Sleepy Orange				••	••	••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••	••••
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	American Copper				•		•	••••	•	•	•		
<i>Satyrrium calanus</i>	Banded Hairstreak						••••	••••					
<i>Satyrrium liparops</i>	Striped Hairstreak						•						
<i>Callophrys henrici</i>	Henry's Elfin				•								
<i>Callophrys gryneus</i>	Juniper Hairstreak							•					
<i>Strymon melinus</i>	Gray Hairstreak			•••	••	••	••••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	•	
<i>Calycopis cecrops</i>	Red-banded Hairstreak			•		••		••••	••••				
<i>Everes comyntas</i>	Eastern Tailed Blue				••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~		
<i>Celastrina ladon</i> (=argiolus)	Spring Azure			••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~			
<i>Celastrina neglectamajor</i>	Appalachian Azure				•								
<i>Glaucopsyche lygdamus</i>	Silvery Blue			•									
<i>Libytheana carinenta</i> (=bachmanii)	American Snout						•	•	•••				
<i>Euptoieta claudia</i>	Variegated Fritillary						••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	•
<i>Speyeria diana</i>	Diana Fritillary					•							
<i>Speyeria cybele</i>	Great Spangled Fritillary					••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~		
<i>Boloria bellona</i> (=toddi)	Meadow Fritillary				•			••••	••••	•			
<i>Chlosyne nycteis</i>	Silvery Checkerspot					••••	••••	••••	••••				
<i>Phyciodes tharos</i>	Pearl Crescent				••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~
<i>Polygonia interrogationis</i>	Question Mark			••	••••	••	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	•	
<i>Polygonia comma</i>	Eastern Comma	•		••••~	••	•	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••		•
<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>	Mourning Cloak	•	•	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	•	•	•		
<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>	American Lady				•	••	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~
<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady				••••~			••••~	••••~	•			
<i>Venessa atalanta</i>	Red Admiral				•	••••	••	••••	••••				
<i>Junonia coenia</i>	Common Buckeye							•			•	•	
<i>Limnitis arthemis</i>	Red-spotted Purple				•	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••	••		
<i>Limnitis archippus</i>	Viceroy						•	••••	••••	••••			
<i>Asterocampa celtis</i>	Hackberry Emperor					•	••••~	••••~	•				
<i>Asterocampa slyton</i>	Tawny Emperor							••••	•				
<i>Enodia antheodon</i>	Northern Pearly-Eye						•	•					
<i>Megisto cymela</i>	Little Wood Satyr				••••	••							
<i>Cercyonis pegala</i>	Common Wood-Nymph							••••					
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch				•	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~
<i>Epargyreus ciarus</i>	Silver-Spotted Skipper				••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••••~	••			



Scientific Name	Common Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Urbanus proteus</i>	Long-Tailed Skipper								•	••	••		
<i>Thorybes bathyllus</i>	Southern Cloudywing							•	•				
<i>Thorybes pylades</i>	Northern Cloudywing					•	•••	•					
<i>Staphylus hayhurstii</i>	Hayhurst's Scallopwing					•	•	•••					
<i>Erynnis icelus</i>	Dreamy Duskywing				•	•	•••						
<i>Erynnis juvenalis</i>	Juvenal's Duskywing				•••••	••							
<i>Erynnis horatius</i>	Horace's Duskywing						••		•	•			
<i>Erynnis baptisiae</i>	Wild Indigo Duskywing				••			••	•••	••			
<i>Pyrgus communis</i>	Common Checkered Skipper					•		••	•••••	••	•••••		
<i>Pholisora catullus</i>	Common Sootywing				•	•••••	••	••					
<i>Lerema accius</i>	Clouded Skipper							••	•••••	•••••	•••••	•••••	
<i>Ancyloxypha numitor</i>	Least Skipper				••	••	•••••	•••••	•				
<i>Hylephila phyleus</i>	Fiery Skipper								•	•			
<i>Polites peckius (=coras)</i>	Peck's Skipper				•			•••••					
<i>Polites themistocles</i>	Tawny-Edged Skipper							•••					
<i>Polites origenes</i>	Crossline Skipper							•••					
<i>Wallengrenia egeremet</i>	Northern Broken-Dash						•	•					
<i>Pompetius verna</i>	Little Glassywing				••	•••••	••	•••••					
<i>Atalopedes campestris</i>	Sachem							••	•••••	•••••	•••••	••	
<i>Poanes hobomok</i>	Hobomok Skipper					••	•						
<i>Poanes zabulon</i>	Zabulon Skipper					••	•	•••••	•				
<i>Euphyes vestris (=ruricola)</i>	Dun Skipper						•••••	•••••					
<i>Panoquina ocola</i>	Ocola Skipper								••		••		

## Young Naturalists in Hillsboro

The Hillsboro Elementary School has completed its first year of the **Young Naturalists at Hillsboro** program, with over thirty students displaying their projects at the June 6<sup>th</sup> PTO meeting.

This educational outreach program was established with cooperation and support from the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. Ellie Daley, coordinator and liaison for the project, reports that the program was funded through several grants, with guidance, coordination, and assistance from the LWC. It included three school assemblies, field journal notebooks for all students, and after-school field trips and activities for those who signed up.

The kickoff assembly in October featured Phil Daley and Eileen Levandoski explaining *What is a Naturalist?* This was followed by field trips, with Barbara Lupfer guiding kindergarten through second grade in *Getting Ready for Winter* at Ida Lee Park, and Phil Daley taking grades three through five to Tom Orme's farm for *The Naturalist's Walk*. November brought the *Night Sounds* assembly, presented by Kevin Dodge, and the *Birding at Birch Hollow* field trip guided by Dodge and Phil Daley. In December, Eileen Levandoski held the after-school program *Making Bird Treats*, while individual project guidance was supplied by Levandoski and Phil Daley. The January art program, courtesy of Jan Jamil, was *Winter Wildlife Signs*.

February's program was canceled because of weather. In March, Michael Hayslett conducted the *Vernal Pools* assembly, followed by *Exploring Vernal Pools*, with Hayslett and Gina Pisoni at Bob and Dee Leggett's Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. Phil Daley and Joyce Smith supplied individual project guidance in April and May; Daley and Sally Hewitt investigated beavers at the Hewitt and Sage-Sunshine farms.

The program was considered a notable success, with all 121 students attending assemblies and seventy-four participating in after-school projects and field trips. Already we have heard comments that not just the students, but their families as well are now more aware of their special natural environment. Greater awareness should lead to better stewardship. Plans are under way to continue the program in the next school year.

All those who helped with the program and the many other LWC members who supported it should be proud of this successful project.

# Inviting Wildlife To Your Garden

*This is the second in a series of articles about gardening for wildlife.*

## Providing Water for Wildlife

If you are lucky enough to have a pond, stream, or vernal pool on your property, you already know the appeal that water has for wildlife. A reliable source of water will attract a variety of birds, amphibians, mammals, and even reptiles. From a strategically-placed shallow pan of water to the most elaborate water garden, nothing lures wildlife like water, and during a long, hot, dry summer, animals often have quite a challenge in finding fresh water to drink and bathe in. You have plenty of choices when incorporating water into your landscaping or gardening plans. Often, a bird bath is the easiest way to get started.



For starters, a shallow pan of water is great. Look for things you already have on hand: a large dish or platter, the water dish from a planter, or even a metal garbage can lid placed on the ground and filled with water will do the job. Just choose a level spot with some cover nearby.

There are dozens of styles of bird baths available for purchase. They range from elaborate carved stone and cast iron to resin that is both light and maintenance-free. Remember, the water is here to simulate a natural puddle, so it should be shallow. You don't want the water to be any deeper than about three to four inches. The slant should be gradual and there should be traction on the bottom of the pool (such as sand or gravel) to provide "footing" for the birds.

When placing a bird bath in your yard, try to position it near a high perch such as a tree, fence post, or even a telephone wire. The birds will use the perch to look out for predators before venturing into the water, and will return to it for preening afterwards. Some birds, like thrushes and towhees, will prefer to visit secluded garden pools hidden among dense vegetation.

You might also provide a fine mist or spray which the birds can bathe in. Moving water seems to be irresistible to some birds. Attach a garden hose to a tree branch, turn it to a fine mist, and watch the fun! You can even buy "specialized" spray misters at bird feeding stores. Another simple way to provide moving water is to fill a bucket or gallon jug and hang it from a tree over a bird bath. Punch a very small hole in the bottom. The water will drip out, little by little, and the birds will fly through and stand under the moving water to bath.

You may wish to go a step further in incorporating water in your garden, and install your own pond. Early this spring, I decided to create a small shallow pond which would attract amphibians and provide the birds with a protected, secluded watering area. Judging from the tracks I have seen near the water's edge, I know that an opossum and several deer have also visited the area recently.

*Continued on page 11*



*Providing Water ...Continued from page 10*

A pond is not difficult to add to your garden. You can go the simple route and buy a pre-formed plastic pond liner (even a kiddie pool will work!); dig a hole, plop in the liner, and fill it with water. A second alternative is to dig out the pond in the desired shape and depth, and then purchase plastic liner to fit the pond. Pond liner, sold at garden centers, is thick and works well, but landscaping plastic works just as well at about a third the cost.

When installing your pond, make sure that the sides have gently sloping edges. Many frogs, toads, and even turtles are drowned in garden ponds because the sides are just too steep for them to climb out. If it is impossible to control the slope of the sides, place lots of rocks, floating vegetation, and pieces of wood in your pond that the animals can use to climb out. Choose your location carefully, and plan it out so there is cover near the water's edge, and some shady spots in your pond.

Adding water to your garden in fun, rewarding and easy to do. Why not try it this summer? Our local wildlife will benefit from it, and so will you!

— Patty Selly

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

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