













Story on page 12







Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy: 20 Years

Habitat Herald

Life in the Fallen Leaves







by Meghan Coldman, North and Family Phogram Coordinator
Well Remeils, coldinor play was a certiful part of aimset resurposes,
children of Well Programs of the taster, Edward
Well Programs of the State of the State of the State
unstructured and make-th-sp-a-spine-go play was a staple of our
children of the State of the State of the State of the State
State of the Stat

Not Termine, May More Colomen, Seria Willing, Bells Chan, and Mac Outh and a real men of the Colomen Scholl William Scholl Chan. Serial Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Miller Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler Scholler 100 Mer Scholler Scholler 100 Mer S

In This Issue

Executive Director's Message Loudoun Wildlife Finalizes JK Black Oak Purchase A Wildlife Haven in a Townhome Yard Conservation Advocacy: Zoning and Emerald Ribbons Butterfly Count Set for August 1 So Much To Love About Golden Alexander 2 Seeing Things Through in Ashburn Village 8
3 Thank You, Pollinators! 10
4 Celebrating Birds: Migration 11
5 Volunteer of the Quarter: Joe Coleman 13
6 Programs and Field Trips 14





Executive Director's Message

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy during these challenging times. Though we are not able to physically get together, we can still stay connected virtually. It is important for us to help our friends, family, and neighbors create a stronger community than ever.

All of our upcoming programs and events have been impacted by the ongoing health crisis. Many have been canceled or postponed indefinitely, including the Spring Native Plant Sale and the Birdathon. We're working hard to bring you virtual events whenever possible so you can stay connected to the natural world. We

encourage you to get outside locally where you can practice physical distancing, even if it is just in your yard. We realize that you might not be able to enjoy all the wonders of spring, so we're hoping to bring a slice of it into your home through virtual events. We have included as many programming updates as we can in this edition of *Habitat Herald*, but this situation is constantly evolving. Please continue to check our website for updates.

We do have some good news to share with you. Our Virtual Wine (& Art) for Wildlife raised over \$13,000! We want to thank everyone who helped make our virtual event a success. And we officially closed on the JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary purchase! We're very excited that this dream has become a reality, and we are landowners for the first time in our 25-year history.

We're also excited to share that we are over three-quarters of the way toward raising \$10,000 that will be matched by the Community Foundation to create a \$20,000 endowment for our organization. And Edwin and Melody Rood are generously matching gifts we receive until we reach our goal, so your gift will have four times the impact!

We have a lot of accomplishments to be proud of over the past 25 years, and we look forward to at least 25 more. We are working hard behind the scenes, and we can't wait to be able to celebrate with our members in person!

Happy trails, Michael

Managing Editor: Michele Savage

Assistant Managing Editor: Sharon Plummer

Lead Editor: Steve Allen

Contributing Editors: Mary Ann Good, Nan Siegel, Dan Sill

Design: Katie Shupe, Chroma Imaging, Herndon, VA

Printer: Mr. Print, Purcellville, VA

Copyright © 2020 by the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. All rights reserved. Articles and photographs are either the property of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, the author and/or the photographer. Permission is required for any republication. To reprint any or all of the *Habitat Herald*, contact Sharon Plummer at splummer@loudounwildlife. org or Michele Savage at msavage@loudounwildlife.org.

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy is a nonprofit 501c3 organization that inspires, motivates, and engages people to protect, preserve, and restore wildlife habitat in Loudoun County. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board meets bi-monthly. Board meetings are open to all current members. For more information, or to suggest topics for discussion at upcoming meetings, contact Julie Borneman.

Office Information

Please check www.loudounwildlife.org for hours.

Phone: 703-777-2575

Address: The Gate House 17638 Old Waterford Road.

Leesburg, VA 20176

Mailing address: PO Box 1892, Leesburg, VA 20177

Executive Director President Vice President Secretary Treasurer

Board of Directors

Operations Staff

Accountant, KAV Consulting LLC
Audubon at Home
Birding Coordinator
Birding Assistant
Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary Committee
Bluebird Trail Coordinator
Business Community Liaison
Butterfly Count Coordinator
Conservation Advocacy Chair
Managing Editors, Habitat Herald

Marketing Program Coordinator Membership Program Coordinator Native Plant Sale Coordinator Office Management Office Management/Online Outreach Pollinator Coordinator Program Coordinator Stream Monitoring Coordinator Volunteer Coordinator Youth & Family Program Coordinator Michael Myers Julie Borneman

Janet Locklear Linda Sieh

Sarah Ali
Julie Borneman
Barbara de Rosa-Joynt
Allison Gallo
Bruce Hill
Atziri Ibanez
Spring Ligi
Janet Locklear
Dave Manning
Jim McWalters
Jill Miller
Patti Psaris
Michael Scipting

Joan Molchan Anne Owen Joe Coleman Bryan Henson Joe Coleman Lisa McKew Linda Perry Anne Ellis

Linda Sieh

Sharon Plummer Michele Savage Kristine DeJarnette Julie Borneman Doreen Varblow BJ Lecrone Atziri Ibanez Jim McWalters Sarah Ali Kim Strader Meghan Goldman mmyers@loudounwildlife.org jborneman@loudounwildlife.org

jlocklear@loudounwildlife.org lsieh@loudounwildlife.org

sali@loudounwildlife.org
jborneman@loudounwildlife.org
bdrjoynt@loudounwildlife.org
agallo@loudounwildlife.org
bhill@loudounwildlife.org
sligi@loudounwildlife.org
sligi@loudounwildlife.org
jlocklear@loudounwildlife.org
dmanning@loudounwildlife.org
jmcwalters@loudounwildlife.org
ppsaris@loudounwildlife.org
ppsaris@loudounwildlife.org
ssciortino@loudounwildlife.org
lsieh@loudounwildlife.org

aowen@loudounwildlife.org jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org bhenson@loudounwildlife.org jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org lmckew@loudounwildlife.org lperry@loudounwildlife.org aellis@loudounwildlife.org

splummer@loudounwildlife.org msavage@loudounwildlife.org kdejarnette@loudounwildlife.org jborneman@loudounwildlife.org jborneman@loudounwildlife.org jlocklear@loudounwildlife.org objlecrone@loudounwildlife.org aibanez@loudounwildlife.org jmcwalters@loudounwildlife.org jmcwalters@loudounwildlife.org sali@loudounwildlife.org mgoldman@loudounwildlife.org mgoldman@loudounwildlife.org



It's Official: Loudoun Wildlife Completes Purchase of JK Black Oak by Michael Myers, Executive Director

In 2017, Ludlow Clark and other members of the Lucketts Ruritans Club alerted Loudoun Wildlife that an 87-acre property outside of Lucketts was for sale, and they were concerned that a special habitat would be destroyed. We knew the property had multiple vernal pools, but we weren't sure how unique it was. So we contacted the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage Program and invited them to study the property. Their analysis determined it was a globally rare wetland, and we knew that we needed to act.

Fortunately, Chuck and Stacy Kuhn of JK Moving Services agreed to purchase the property, and resell it to us at a conserved value. Since July 2018, we leased the property from JK Moving Services, completing our first habitat restoration project there in November. Last year, JK Moving placed the property under a conservation easement held by the Land Trust of Virginia to permanently protect the property from future development. And on March 10, 2020, we completed the purchase of JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary from JK Moving Services. Now we are officially stewards of the vernal pools, forests, and the abundant wildlife this globally rare wetland harbors.

To raise the funds necessary to complete the purchase, we reached out to The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy studied the property and deemed it was suitable to create additional wetlands there. Support from The Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund, and individual donors made it possible for us to make the purchase.

In our 25th year, we are excited to be purchasing land for the first time in our history. We are extremely thankful for Chuck and Stacy Kuhn's support to purchase the property and resell it to us at a conserved value, and we are grateful for funding from the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund to be able to complete the purchase. We're looking forward to working with The Nature Conservancy to further enhance the wildlife habitat at the site.

We will work with The Nature Conservancy to ensure the long-term protection of the property and the tremendous conservation values it holds. The wetlands restoration project will further improve the habitat for wildlife and overall ecological diversity. We plan to work with local students and adults to conduct citizen science projects studying amphibians, birds, butterflies, and other species on the property as we do elsewhere in the county. This property will give us our very own platform to complete most of the programs we offer.

One of our first steps as owners is to clear and prepare trails, so we can safely bring groups out onto the property. We will also



Oak Wildlife
Sanctuary —
formerly known
as Stumptown
Woods — include
rare wetlands like
this vernal pool
(top), meadows,
and mature
forests where you
may spot haircap
moss (right) and
other treasures.
Photos by Sharon
Plummer



continue to study and learn about the flora and fauna on the property. (We recently documented the presence of American Woodcocks, a state species of concern.) While we do look forward to engaging the public to educate them about all the unique features and to show them the beauty of the property, we want to remind everyone to be patient with us through this process. There are many sensitive habitats throughout the property, and we want to ensure we are not causing harm to what we're trying to save. Currently, we have a few programs scheduled on the property for later this summer.

Donations can be made to assist with future stewardship costs at https://loudounwildlife.org/black-oak/.



A Wildlife Haven in a Townhome Yard

by Anne Owen, Audubon at Home Program Coordinator

Janet Hensley inherited her passion for gardening from her mother, who loves wildflowers like Dutchman's

Breeches, Trout Lilies, Bloodroot, and Trilliums as much as the more classical gardeners' fare of Hosta and Peonies.

Janet became a conservation advocate when in fifth grade she was required to learn the definition — "Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources so as to give the greatest benefit to the largest number of people for the longest period of time." She would spend time sitting on a snag by a stream close to her home, absorbing nature and enjoying the tranquility.

Janet's townhouse yard offered her little in the way of nature or tranquility resources when she moved there four years ago. In the back, there was scrubby grass covered in dandelions, with three cinder-block raised beds for vegetables, and a Weeping Willow tree that had entirely outgrown the small space. At the side of the house was a huge Leyland Cypress, with non-native

Janet Hensley's townhome backyard proves what a difference four years and a dedication to native plants can make. Once home to scrubby grass, a few small vegetable beds, and little else, the small space is a wildlife oasis now. Photos by Anne Owen

hollies and a Japanese Maple. She also had a very active homeowners' association with rather narrow views on how the neighborhood should look.

Her first changes included removing the Weeping Willow and replacing the Cypress with a native multi-trunk River Birch. She also removed the raised beds, dug out the dandelions and decide to keep a narrow curving area of lawn with flower beds on either side. She added

stepping stones to the beds to enable her to walk among the flowers.

> Given the limited size of the yard, she selected a number of native plants and native cultivars that remain small, with limited height and spread. For

example, while Threadleaf Coreopsis (Coreopsis verticillatea) and Wild Petunia (Ruellia caroliniensis) are naturally limited in height, Janet selected Iron Butterfly (Vernonia lettermanii) rather than the much taller New York Ironweed (Vernonia noveboracensis) and Dwarf Joe Pye Weed (Eupatorium

eight feet in height! She also chose to put in a dwarf Redbud cultivar (Cercis canadensis) to avoid having this

dubium) instead of regular Joe Pye Weed

(Eutrochium fistulosum) which can reach

tree overwhelm her yard.

Some of her plants such as Cardinal Flower (Lobelia) cardinalis) and Obedient Plant (Physostegia virginiana) are selfseeding and multiplying successfully, while the lovely groundcover Golden Ragwort (Packera aurea) tends to spread quite vigorously. Janet hates to kill plants, so she digs up the extras and gives them away.

Continued on page 5





Conservation Advocacy Focuses on Zoning Overhaul, Emerald Ribbons by Michael Myers, Executive Director

Loudoun County adopted a new Comprehensive Plan last June. Since then, many new members have joined the Board of Supervisors, and there are many new appointees to various committees and advisory boards. Amid all this change, Loudoun County has begun the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite process to create a new zoning ordinance that aligns with the recently passed Comprehensive Plan.

As with the Comprehensive Plan process, Loudoun Wildlife will work with members of the Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition to provide public input to the county throughout the ordinance overhaul. Collectively, members of the Loudoun Coalition will be providing input on all facets of the zoning ordinance. Loudoun Wildlife is specifically focused on regulations that will govern riparian buffers, tree canopy, native plant use, and invasive species removal. This important work illustrates how essential our advocacy program is to the county's future. We are in the beginning of what will be a lengthy process, and we will be reaching out with calls to action as future public comment periods are scheduled to be held.

Loudoun Wildlife continues to participate with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Service's

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space board's Linear Parks and Trails subcommittee to create Emerald Ribbons an interconnected system of wildlife corridors and trails to connect communities across Loudoun County. We also continue to be involved with the Loudoun Coalition's Emerald Ribbons committee to help ensure progress is made toward our shared goal. We are pleased to report that \$350,000 in funding to hire a consultant to create a framework plan for Emerald Ribbons was moved into this year's budget utilizing the General Fund balance rather than being put in a future year's budget. This change will allow the process to hire a consultant to begin immediately rather than waiting for future funding. The consultant's work will be a guide to develop an iconic natural asset for Loudoun County. In the meantime, we are continuing to work behind the scenes, including monitoring land use applications that could impact and provide critical segments and linkages that will connect the future Emerald Ribbons. We are excited progress is being made on Emerald Ribbons, and we remain committed to ensuring wildlife corridors are protected during this process.

A Wildlife Haven in a Townhome Yard, continued from page 4

She included a number of small shrubs, Virginia Sweetspire (Itea virginica "Henry's Garnet") and Winterberry (Ilex verticillata), so that there is structure in the yard throughout the year and added in a native vine to make use of the fences as additional growing real estate.

While the main part of the yard is in full sun, Janet noticed a couple of areas under the deck where the growing conditions are very different. Here she has an impressive mix of native plants that prefer cooler, shadier and moister conditions. Wood Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*), and Trout Lily (*Erythronium americanum*) rub shoulders with Trillium and Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*).

Alongside her Joe Pye Weed, Janet also has several Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and she gets great joy from

finding Monarch caterpillars each year, then observing them grow and pupate. A few times she has been fortunate enough to witness a new butterfly eclose, rest while its wings expand and harden, and finally take flight!

After four years, the garden now appears full, but Janet's commitment to native plants continues. "It's now mostly about maintaining a balance between the plants that I have to make sure that nothing gets crowded out and finding something new if a space opens up," she says.

Janet loves to spend time on her patio, watching the insects, birds, and critters that visit the habitat that she has created. "Wildlife is my friend," she says.

What better confirmation could there be that Janet is a friend to wildlife than the American Robin pair who built a nest and raised their brood in the light fixture right above her favorite patio chair!



Count Butterflies!

Loudoun Volunteers Plan Annual Butterfly Count for August

by Michele Savage

Calling all fans of Question Marks, Eastern Commas, and (of course) Monarchs! Your favorite winged things need you to stand up for and count them during the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 24th Annual Butterfly Count on August 1.

The event is part of a nationwide effort by the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). Each year, NABA asks volunteers across the country to count all the butterflies they see within specified "count circles," said Anne Ellis, butterfly count coordinator for Loudoun Wildlife. The local count's 15-mile-diameter circle, centered at Waterford, stretches from Leesburg to the Blue Ridge and from Lovettsville to Lincoln — about 177 square miles that includes roadsides, public and private gardens, and other areas.

Some Loudoun counts have recorded "rarities," Anne said, including the Giant Swallowtail in 2014 and the Longtailed Skipper in 2015, as well as more commonly seen butterflies.

"Last year we counted over 6,368 butterflies, our best year ever," she said. "The Ocola Skipper was a new addition to the list. It is not a beauty, but we are proud. We reported astonishing numbers of Eastern Tiger Swallowtails,

Meadow Fritillaries, Clouded Sulphurs, and an above average number of Monarchs."

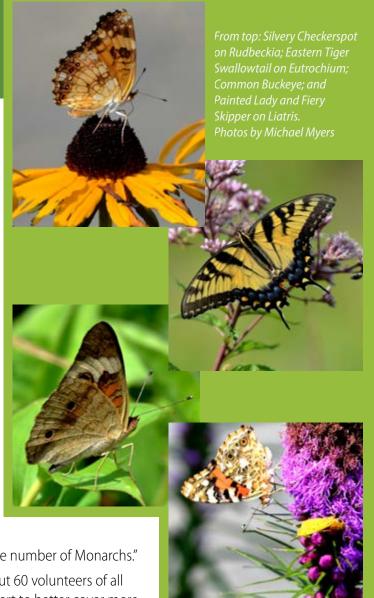
Organizers typically divide the participants (on average about 60 volunteers of all ages and skill levels) into eight teams. But this year, in an effort to better cover more areas in their circle, Loudoun Wildlife may field additional teams led by trained

volunteers, Anne said. She and co-coordinator Allison Gallo will identify new venues to include in the 2020 count.

During the 2019 count, volunteers identified 52 species of butterflies within the Loudoun circle — "a good year all around," Anne said. "Our numbers don't seem to show a serious problem. But clearly lawns are not butterfly habitat, and every year we see more and more vast areas of turf grass, non-native, home to nothing but maybe Japanese Beetle larvae. Many butterflies can make a home in roadside ditches and untended fence lines, which are still common in western Loudoun County. Recent road work on Route 9 may have an impact on this year's count. We'll know more after August 1."

While many butterfly lovers focus on the adult stage, "I think it is more important to leave some small part of the garden a little weedy and undisturbed, by minimizing herbicide use, and to tolerate all insects generally by minimizing pesticides," Anne said. "Flowers with nectar are wonderful, but the driving force for adult butterflies is procreation — someplace to lay their eggs, where the caterpillars can feed, where they can hide as a chrysalis and emerge safely to do it all again."

To volunteer for the 2020 Butterfly Count on August 1, register online at loudounwildlife.org. There is a \$3 fee per adult; Loudoun Wildlife members and children under 18 participate for free. Fees and count data are submitted to NABA, whose database is made available to researchers.





Gardeners and Wildlife Welcome Golden Alexander to Landscape by Hope Woodward

Without a doubt, one reason to include Golden Alexander (Zizia aurea) in your garden is that it is one of the "Super 9" native plants that support local pollinators, native bees, and butterflies. It's a valuable food source and larval host for the Black Swallowtail caterpillar, while its pollen is collected by small bees (think green sweat bees), larger bees sip its nectar, and Ladybird Beetles are reported to lay eggs under the flowerheads. During the spring and early summer before many other plants bloom, it serves as a nectar source for beneficial insects with short mouthparts. To top it off, deer seem to steer clear of *Z. aurea* and it has few pest and disease problems.

Aside from its benefits to wildlife, the gardener will welcome Golden Alexander's versatility: it grows in full sun to light shade and will tolerate full shade. Although *Z. aurea* prefers moist to wet, well-drained sandy-clay soils that are acidic to neutral, it can handle sites with rocky material and survive dry summers. The plant is very easy to grow and self-seeds. In fact, plants can reseed heavily under ideal conditions; consider deadheading seed heads to discourage large colonies.

Z. aurea occurs from Maine to Florida and west from Montana to Texas in USDA hardiness zones 4-9. It is found in both higher quality and degraded habitats such as moist black soil prairies, openings in moist to mesic woodland edges, wooded bottomlands, stream banks, floodplains, meadows, power line clearings, and abandoned fields.

In our area come mid-March, the dark green, somewhat glossy, compound serrated leaflets of this deciduous short-lived perennial sprout out of the ground from dense clusters of coarse fibrous roots. Golden Alexander grows upright in 12-inch diameter clumps that grow to 1.0-2.5 feet. By late spring and through early summer, showy blooms appear at the ends of the plant's upper stems in the form of a flat umbel. These tiny, bright chartreuse-yellow flowers are a pollinator magnet! As the summer heat increases, *Zizia aurea's* flowers begin to bolt and its



foliage takes a downturn. However, *Z. aurea* keeps on giving year-round: as the seed heads dry, they turn purple and, according to Native American Butterfly Association member Mary Ann Borge: "Even after the fruit falls or is eaten, the flower pedicels (stems) offer an attractive starburst shape for visual interest when left standing through the winter."

Consider using Golden Alexander in a perennial border, to line the edges of a driveway, in a rock garden, or in a rain garden.

You can find Golden Alexander at the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy-sponsored spring and fall native plant sales in Morven Park and also at many local native plant nurseries.

Resources:

Digital Atlas of the Virginia Flora: http://vaplantatlas.org/index.php?do=plant&plant =1961&search=Search

Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., Plants of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden: https://www.friendsofthewildflowergarden.org/pages/plants/goldenalexander. html

Illinois Wildflowers: https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/gld_alexanderx.htm

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=ZIAU

Native American Butterfly Association: http://nababutterfly.com/golden-alexander/ Native Plants for Northern Virginia: http://nebula.wsimg.com/54e6449bca41f4358df c9cf0a2cae51d

Plant the 'Super 9' for Pollinators and They Will Come (Anne Owen): https://loudounwildlife.org/2019/08/super-nine/

"Super Nine" Nectar & Host Plants For a Pocket Pollinator Garden Brochure (Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Audubon at Home): https://loudounwildlife.org/themencode-pdf-viewer/?file=https://loudounwildlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Super9brochure_August-21-ABO.pdf

USDA Plants Database: https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=ZIAU



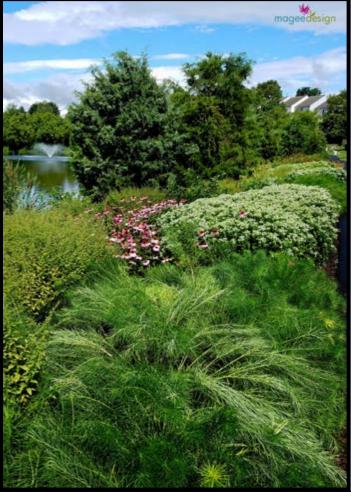
Seeing Things Through to Fruition in Ashburn Village

by John Magee

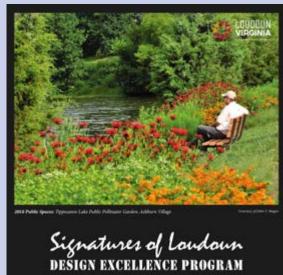
It's been almost seven years now since the community of Ashburn Village reached out to me to help design pollinator gardens near the five communal lakes that grace their Homeowner's Association property. Their goal was simply to add pollinator habitat in and around the community to help benefit the creatures we depend upon so much to help create the food webs we all depend upon.

Much of the original landscaping in the Village has little or no ecological value, as it consists of mostly non-native species like Barberries, Japanese Hollies, Japanese ornamental grasses, and of course, everybody's favorite, the Callery (or Bradford) Pear. These are all plants traditionally used by landscapers for their aesthetic value without consideration of the ecological impact of doing so.

The gardens the author designed at Tippecanoe Lake are filled with native plants and attract people as well as pollinators. Photos (clockwise from below) by John Magee, Susanna Struve, Susanna Struve, and John Magee.



That has changed in recent years. More and more we are seeing rain gardens and conservation landscaping becoming the talk at garden centers, by Master Gardeners, on gardening programs, and especially at our universities and other places where landscape architects and designers are



trained. But change can't always happen overnight, and I've been advocating for this change for many years. That's why it was so amazing to finally land such a public and prestigious honor in helping to develop these gardens.

Tippecanoe Lake was the first that we developed, and it was a fun experiment in executing such a project within a tight budget. For example, because many of the plants we wanted to use were not readily available, we had to search and even grow some of them ourselves. To keep weeds down we did not till the soil as we normally would on landscaping projects like this. Initially, this helped to keep weeds down similar to the way no-till farming works. With pollinator gardens, the fewer pesticides and herbicides the better, so we wanted to take this initial step, and it seemed to work.

The downside to using plants that are not readily available is that you must plant younger plants, so it takes a little longer for the garden to establish. Luckily though, younger plants tend to adapt well to new surroundings and are less likely to fail, so very few plant replacements were needed.

As the garden grew, so did its popularity, and we continued to plant other gardens. The following year was Ashburn Lake, then Beech Lake after that. There are now even paths cutting through the Ashburn Lake gardens, and couples have been known to go there for wedding pictures.

Tippecanoe was always the anchor, having been the first. In its third year, I thought it was mature enough to photograph and enter the "Signatures of Loudoun" design excellence competition. We won first place in the Public Spaces category, and everything

Continued on page 9



Seeing Things Through to Fruition in Ashburn Village, continued from page 8

seemed to be going in the right direction. Almost every time I visited, someone on the trails would stop to tell me how much they enjoy seeing the butterflies and birds benefiting from the gardens, the almost constant array of changing flower combinations, and how it's unlike anything they've ever seen. I'm quite often asked "when will you be doing our neighborhood?" And I've even had children come out and tell me the story of the pretty orange butterfly that travels all the way from Mexico to visit their little piece of pollinator heaven. Everything was going so well.

Then a new challenge to the gardens arose. A change to the HOA Board of Directors brought on some new members and administrative staff who were not as invested in the benefits of the pollinator-forward landscaping plan, and were concerned about the costs associated with maintaining it. There was even a suggestion that the gardens be removed and replaced

with grass.

The gardens support a lot of life. Birds, butterflies and even a groundhog in one spot. Without these gardens, all that habitat and food would be lost. Grass serves no ecological service and is the highest polluting landscape maintenance there is.

Fortunately, it seems many of the residents of Ashburn Village have reached out to the new management, and I would encourage all to continue doing so. Once again, we're discussing maintaining the existing gardens. There's no talk of new gardens yet, but it would be grand to keep what they have. More and more communities are doing this type of landscaping, and many firms that exist today promote a more ecological approach to landscaping than working with plants not native to our area.

If you live in a community that has an opportunity to install pollinator gardens, I would encourage you to do the same. Get out, get some people motivated, and make some changes happen. Some communities have developed "do not plant" lists that give landscapers a framework of things to avoid. I highly encourage such lists. They're not foolproof, but they can keep some of the worst offenders out of the landscape. There are also several resources, like Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's *Planting for Wildlife in Northern Virginia* and Plant NoVa Natives' *Native Plants for Northern Virginia*, that list and describe the native species appropriate for eco-friendly landscaping.

I know right now we're all practicing social distancing, but I encourage you to visit these gardens and to help keep interest in them high. Like I said, change doesn't always come quickly, but in a time of global climate change and introduced species, staying as native as we can is something we can all do to counteract some of the problems we're all facing.

John Magee is a landscape designer and president of Magee Design in Middleburg, and one of the creators of the Native Plant Podcast.







A Big Thank You to the World's Smallest Workers: Pollinators by Monica Acha

We are interconnected with the world around us, more than we realize and more than meets the eve. We get the pleasure of enjoying our favorite fruits, nuts, and vegetables thanks to the hard work of farmers, truckers, delivery

personnel, grocery store workers, and farmer's market vendors. Our food travels through helping hands so we can enjoy it with friends and family.

But if we look deeper into the food process, let's not forget the tiniest workers that initiate the process: pollinators. This year, National Pollinator Week will be June 22-28.

What is a pollinator? Before becoming a volunteer with Loudoun Wildlife, I thought only of honeybees. How wrong

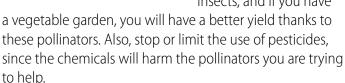
I was! Now I have learned that pollinators include birds, moths, wasps, bees, butterflies, beetles, bats, and other small mammals. According to pollinator.org, one of three bites of food we consume has been made possible by pollinators, which "also sustain our ecosystem and produce our natural resources by helping plants reproduce."

Pollinators are an important piece in our lives and our natural world. In recent years there have been reports of the decline of these amazing insects and animals. As the National Institute of Food and Agriculture has stated, "[o]ur nation's pollinator populations have suffered serious losses due to invasive pests and diseases, such as mites and viral and fungal pathogens, exposure to pesticides and

> other chemicals, loss of habitat, loss of species and genetic diversity, and changing climate."

We are witnesses to the loss of habitat in our area. and the use of pesticides in our communities. However, we should not feel defeated, we should feel empowered to act. If you have not yet started a pollinator garden, planting the "Super 9" is a the pollinators. Native plants will attract native insects, and if you have

great way to start helping



Resources:

https://www.pollinator.org/pollinators Reversing Pollinator Decline is Key to Feeding the Future. https://www.usda.gov/ media/blog/2016/06/24/reversing-pollinator-decline-key-feeding-future Plant the 'Super 9' for Pollinators and They Will Come. Anne Owen. https:// loudounwildlife.org/2019/08/super-nine/



Spring Peeper Photo by Michael Myers

When the groundhog casts his shadow And the small birds sing And the pussywillows happen And the sun shines warm And when the peepers peep Then it is Spring.

- Margaret Wise Brown



Celebrating Birds: The Phenomenon of Migration by Joe Coleman

Every day, any time of day, somewhere in the Western Hemisphere, birds are migrating. The peak of migration in our area occurs in May and then again from late September through early October. As Scott Weidensaul wrote in his book *Living on the Wind*, "If it is spring or fall, the great pivot points of the year, ... continents are swarming with billions of traveling birds — a flood so great that even the most ignorant and unobservant notice, if nothing else, the skeins of geese and the flocks of robins."

Some birds migrate during the day. Many others, the majority in terms of sheer numbers, migrate at night, generally beginning about a half hour after sunset. Those observers fortunate enough to watch this on radar see what appears to be a great cloud rising from the landscape.

About 75% of North America's 650 nesting bird species migrate. While some of these birds will only move a few states, others will shift all the way to Argentina. In some areas a species doesn't

migrate at all, while in another only the females migrate. Darkeyed Juncos, often called snowbirds because they go south for the winter, are an example of this. Some young male juncos never leave Canada during their migration, while adult females will go all the way to the southern U.S. Young males migrate the shorter distance, perhaps so they can be the first to return home to establish a territory.

Although some species never leave the U.S., many go to Mexico and Central America and about 50 species go all the way to South America. Only about 10 songbird species, including Eastern Kingbirds, a common summer resident in Loudoun County, and Bobolinks, a rapidly disappearing summer resident in the county, travel beyond the Amazon basin. Bobolinks, a delightful and attractive blackbird with an incredible song, have the longest migration of any blackbird species, traveling from North America to northern Argentina. Like many migrants, both sexes return to the same nesting grounds year after year. While some Bobolinks follow the coast south, others travel out over the Atlantic on their journey to South America.

Another fascinating aspect of migration is the role of fat. Fat deposits in non-migrating birds are about 5%, while long-distance migrants build their fat reserves to 50% or more of their total body weight before they begin migration. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird, the only nesting hummingbird in the eastern U.S., normally weighing about 3 grams (0.11 ounces), increases its weight by 2 grams (0.07 ounces), or by two-thirds, for its journey. As a result it can fly across the Gulf of Mexico nonstop if the winds are right.

Unfortunately, the phenomenon of migration is showing signs of trouble. For over a century the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 was the cornerstone of bird protection. Last year the current federal administration severely weakened this protection. Even before then, humankind's footprint on the land was having a strong impact on birds. With increased habitat loss

and all the other ways humans have impacted the natural environment, birds are struggling. It is up to us to recognize what is happening and to do something about it now.

Scientists have learned a tremendous amount about migration

recently, but because a great deal of research is continuing, what we know about migration is constantly evolving. For more information on this very complex topic you can review these resources:

- All about Birds by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, an online resource accessed at www.allaboutbirds.org that is constantly being updated.
- Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds by Scott Weidensaul (North Point Press, 1999).
- *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* by National Audubon Society (Alfred A. Knopf, 2001).



Ruby-throated Hummingbird rests on a branch. Photo by Katherine Daniels



Habitat Herald: 25 Years and Still Going Strong by Steve Allen

A year after the founding of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy it became clear to the organization's leaders that a newsletter was needed to spread the word to its membership, which was then nearing 100 people. Because the loss of healthy wildlife habitats is the greatest threat to wildlife worldwide and especially in Loudoun County, consistently one of the country's fastest growing counties, the word "habitat" was needed in the title. And so the *Habitat Herald* was born in the spring of 1996.

The Herald was fortunate to recruit
Barbara Holland and Karin
Scott as its first co-editors.
Barbara was a worldrenowned bestselling
author of such books
as Endangered Pleasures and The Joy of
Drinking. Barbara edited the newsletter for
its first three years, and wrote several articles
as well, including a hilarious take on maintaining
a garden when deer are around, called "Backyard
Wildlife: The Downside."

The cover article in Volume #1, Issue #1 was a word from the president of the organization, Diane Gilliam (now Fetterman), discussing what had been accomplished in the first year and what were their hopes for the future. [See a reprint of this article on page 13.] There were updates from the committees, and several poems about nature from second graders at the Lincoln School. There was a column called "Naturally Loudoun" with a brief unsigned article about flying squirrels. And finally there were upcoming events, which included bird and wildflower walks, field trips, several slide shows at area libraries, and a request for volunteers to help with a count. If that sounds familiar, it is. It is inspiring to realize that although the *Habitat Herald* has evolved over time, 25 years and 80 issues later all of these features are still regularly a part of the newsletter.

In its first year, the *Herald* was only four pages long and in black and white with little or no graphics. As membership grew, so did the newsletter. In 1997, the *Herald* expanded to eight pages, and some color graphics were added — the winter issue that year had a yellow "slow" traffic sign on the cover in an article about avoiding roadkill, and there were several color drawings inside. A year later, after Karen Coleman and Leslie McCasker took over as editors, the *Herald* expanded to 12 and soon to 16 pages. Karen remained an editor for the next 10 years.

The entire Summer 1998 issue was dedicated to the importance of making Banshee Reeks a nature preserve, while several subsequent issues included articles encouraging our members

to speak to the Board of Supervisors about that. This was the first, but not the last time, that the *Habitat Herald* played an important role in publicly advocating for wildlife habitat.

The first black and white photographs did not appear until the Winter 2003 issue, a Barred Owl and several others, but were not a regular feature until the Spring 2007 issue when the first frontpage photographs appeared, a Snowy Owl and a Pine Siskin. Color photography did not arrive until the Fall 2012 issue, which featured several photos relating to the lead article about life in the falling leaves of autumn.

In the early days, before the Internet, the Habitat
Herald was the principal means to get the word
out to the membership and public at large.
Email and social media have expanded
the outreach of the Conservancy, but
the newsletter remains a critical
part of informing the people of
Loudoun about the important
topics concerning its land and
wildlife

"The Habitat Herald
has become an iconic
feature of our education
programs, and people
continue to enjoy
the articles after 25 years,"
Executive Director Michael Myers
said. "It contains a great blend
of knowledge about wildlife, and

information about our upcoming programs. The well-researched articles are an enduring source of information. It's a great resource to introduce new people to the organization and a tremendous asset for the residents of Loudoun County."

"When I moved to Loudoun 20 years ago I came across a *Habitat Herald* at the library," recalled Julie Borneman, president of the Conservancy. "I found it to be a wealth of information about the wild side of Loudoun County. I always keep copies of the *Habitat Herald* with me to give to interested people. I feel it puts our best foot forward and makes a great first impression."

The *Habitat Herald* team wants to thank all of the volunteers who have preceded us for establishing the standard of excellence that we try to live up to in every issue, and you, our readers, for your support of Loudoun Wildlife, which allows us to continue to work on the newsletter to keep you informed about the nature of Loudoun. Thank you.



Yesterday and Today

Editor's note: This reprint of the cover article from our first issue (Spring 1996) shows that the issues of greatest concern to the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy have changed little in 25 years.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has had a very successful first year. As we celebrate our anniversary, we have almost 100 members, with more joining us all the time. Our free educational Tuesday evening programs have been well attended by members and visitors of all ages, and many stalwart souls have braved the weather for our field trips. We're beginning to have an impact in the county with our message of welcoming wildlife in our communities. We believe that it is possible, even in manicured new developments, to landscape in a way that is attractive to birds, butterflies and other native creatures, as well as the neighbors! The companionship of nature is one of the most pleasant reasons to live here, but nature is fragile and its native places are often more easily destroyed than preserved. With the completion of the Dulles Greenway and the prospect of even heavier development, keeping our companions around will take planning and work.

The Conservancy is dedicated to educating homeowners and developers and affecting public policy on the support of wildlife habitats.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand our services and educational programs, develop more projects like our schoolyard program, work proactively with developers, and establish a streammonitoring and restoration committee. We will become more active in the community and solidify our public policy efforts with the Land Use Tax Credit initiative, hoping to provide financial incentives for owners of smaller properties.

Your sponsorship and support are needed more than ever as we move into our crucial second year. Give us your ideas. Talk to your neighbors. Bring friends to our programs. If you are not already a member of the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, please join us



and help spread the word. The h u m a n race needs

company. A world with only people in it would be a lonely place to live.

Diane Gilliam, President

Volunteer of the Quarter: Joe Coleman

by Kim Strader, Volunteer Coordinator



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy founding member, driving force behind our Citizen Science projects, advocate for protecting and preserving important local wildlife habitat, and birder extraordinaire. All this and more is what

Joe Coleman is to our community. In 2019, he received the Outstanding Senior Volunteer Award from Loudoun Cares, and Loudoun Wildlife renamed our annual volunteer award for meritorious board or program leadership service "The Joe Coleman Award" in his honor.

Joe and two others founded Loudoun Wildlife in 1995, and he continues to help guide us. As a former Board president, his leadership propelled Loudoun Wildlife into a new area of growth and expansion. He facilitated the hiring of Executive Director Michael Myers. Michael says Joe has been a tremendous mentor, educating and introducing him to members, partners, and community leaders, and sharing his knowledge about the organization and past projects, events, and activities.

Joe is a great advocate for birding and the natural world. He enthusiastically supports our Citizen Science Programs and leads bird walks every month, passing along his extensive birding knowledge. Joe organized and supervised the 2019 publishing of *Birds of Loudoun: A Guide Based on the 2009-2014 Loudoun County Bird Atlas*.

Joe led the committee that raised the funds necessary for Loudoun Wildlife's first property purchase — JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary. He continues to chair that committee as we create a management plan for the property's future.

Joe also has worked to preserve the Great Blue Heron Rookery along Broad Run and to establish the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve. His years of work with the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship continues as they transition into Sweet Run State Park. As a member of a Land Trust of Virginia advisory committee, he also has assisted in placing thousands of acres into conservation easements.

Joe has made Loudoun County a better place where people and wildlife thrive. Thank you, Joe, for sharing your passion, knowledge and experience with all of us!



Programs and Field Trips



Unless otherwise specified, contact info@ loudounwildlife.org with questions.

In response to ongoing COVID-19 developments, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy has canceled or postponed many programs, or shifted to virtual events. Please check our website at www.loudounwildlife. org for the latest updates and schedule. We look forward to resuming our programs and nature walks when it is appropriate. In the meantime, Loudoun Wildlife hopes to offer a number of online events in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned!

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy Board Meeting — The Board typically meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. All Loudoun Wildlife members are welcome. Contact Julie Borneman at *jborneman@loudounwildlife.org* for additional information.

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 25th Annual Meeting — Sunday, June 7, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., Virtual Event. Let's celebrate our 25th anniversary and land ownership of JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary! Our speaker this year is renowned native bee expert Sam Droege. There will be a short business meeting and presentation of Volunteer of the Year awards. We will send a link on how to participate to all registrants, so please register! If you're not yet a member or need to renew, please join! Registration required.

A Celebration of Birdsong — Saturday, June 20, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Stone Barn at Morven Park. At this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy program, Wil Hershberger, award-winning nature photographer, nature sound recordist, and co-author of *The Songs of Insects*, will take us into the wonderful world of birdsong with his gorgeous nature images and sound recordings. We will be following the increase in birdsong from late winter into spring, see how birds sing, why they sing, and just how extraordinary birdsong really is. *Registration required*.

Summer Nature Series: Native Bees: Why They Matter and How to Support Them — Saturday, June 20, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Lansdowne Woods Theater, Leesburg. We all know about the European honeybee, but what about the native bees that live here in Loudoun? These native bees help pollinate our ornamental and edible plants. At this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy sponsored event, you'll learn about the many fascinating and bee-utiful native bees that live in our gardens and the plants that support them. You will get a close-up look at mason and leafcutter bees, discuss some simple ways that you can attract native bees in your garden, and help them thrive. You will learn some best practices for using bee houses and how to keep future generations of bees healthy. Join us and leave this talk with various handouts, including a list of native plants to help pollinators. Limit 10. Registration required.

Forest Bathing: A Guided Nature and Forest Therapy Walk — Saturday, June 20, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary, Lucketts. Enjoy the evening chorus of nature as we wander through JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary. Kim Strader, Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs, will lead us on a gentle sensory-opening walk to reconnect

or deepen our connection with the natural world in a way that supports overall health and wellness. This slow-paced walk, sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, will cover no more than a mile in 3 hours as we awaken our senses and explore the surrounding forests, fields, and vernal pools. The terrain is gentle, but there are no trails, so we recommend wearing shoes or boots with good tread that can get muddy or wet. Directions to the site and additional details will be emailed to participants a week ahead. Limit 10. Fee: \$30 members/\$40 non-members. *Registration required*.

Summer Nature Series: Moth Madness — Thursday, June 25, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Vanish Brewery, Lucketts. Discover why moths constitute about 90% of all the Lepidoptera on the planet — not bad for a group of animals that flew with the dinosaurs! Join Dr. David Adamski and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to review and explore the most common moth families found in the Capital region. After sunset, Dr. Adamski will help us identify the moths that are attracted to his blacklight set up on the wooded grounds. *Registration required*.

HOA Native Plant Landscape Tour: Ashburn Village Signature Lakes — Saturday, June 27, 10:00 a.m. Landscape designer John Magee will lead a tour of the beautiful native plant installations around Tippecanoe and Ashburn Lakes. Along with providing habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, these gardens serve as a riparian buffer, cleaning stormwater runoff. Learn from John and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy members how to choose native plants that will work for your HOA, and how to maintain plantings over time. Limit 10. Fee: \$20 members/\$30 non-members. Registration required.

Dragonflies and Damselflies — Saturday, June 27, 10:00 a.m., JK Black Oak Sanctuary, Lucketts. Join Andy Rabin and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a leisurely walk in search of these beautiful and fascinating insects on our new property. There are about 70 species that occur in Loudoun. This popular trip is always both fun and informative. Bring binoculars. Adults and interested children are welcome. *Registration required*.

Summer Nature Series: Snakes Alive! — Saturday, July 11, 2:00 p.m., Morven Park. Snakes play an important role in maintaining the balance and diversity of native species. They keep rodent and insect populations in check and in turn are preyed upon by larger species. While they spend the cold months in brumation, much of their summer is spent under cover or basking in the sun. Join naturalist Jenny Swiggart for this Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy program to learn and explore the fascinating aspects about the various species native to our area. *Registration required*.

Summer Nature Series: Backyard Bats — Thursday, July 23, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Vanish Brewery, Lucketts. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a great program to learn about our local bats! Leslie Sturges of the Save Lucy Campaign will describe the fascinating and enchanting world of bats, our only true flying mammal, and how important they are. She will also introduce the seven species of bats, some of which are common and



some rare, that call Loudoun home. After the talk, Leslie will take us outside with her bat detector to find and identify all the bats we can! *Registration required*.

HOA Native Plant Landscape Tour: Willowsford Conservancy — Saturday, July 25, 10:00 a.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and Willowsford Conservancy Executive Director Iris Gestram on a tour of their native plant wet meadow and native plant demonstration garden. Learn how these landscapes provide beauty and essential habitat for insects, amphibians, and birds. The native plant demo garden by the farm stand features native perennials and grasses, and interpretive labels, to encourage homeowners to use native plants at home. Loudoun Wildlife volunteers will also identify the various butterflies we see. Limit 10. Fee: \$20 members/\$30 non-members. Registration required.

(Note: Willowsford is open to attendees during the event but is private property; trails and HOA amenities are not open to the public).

Let's Count Butterflies! — Saturday, August 1, 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. Announcing Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 24th annual Butterfly Count! Come and have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. Each year the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) asks volunteers around the nation to count all the butterflies they see within specified count circles. Our circle stretches from Leesburg to the Blue Ridge and from Lovettsville to Lincoln, along roadsides and driveways, public pollinator plantings, and private gardens. All ages and experience levels are welcome — you'll be teamed with experienced leaders. There is a \$3 fee per adult; Loudoun Wildlife members and children under 18 participate for free. Fees and count data are submitted to NABA, whose database is made available to researchers. *Registration required*.

Also mark your calendars for these exciting upcoming Loudoun Wildlife events:

HOA Native Plant Landscape Tour: Broadlands Wildlife Habitat — TBD. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Broadlands Conservation Landscaping Committee for an in-depth look at the Broadlands Native Plant Demonstration Garden and Wildlife Habitat. This garden, which is supported by the HOA, was designed and installed by John Magee in Fall 2012. Learn which plant species have thrived here and how the garden has changed over 8 years. Committee members will discuss challenges they've faced in the maintenance of the garden. Get in-person guidance on the best plants to use and how to design a native plant garden that is appealing to your HOA board.

HOA Native Plant Landscape Tour: Rivercreek — September 12, 10:00 a.m. Susan Abraham, Conservation Landscaper, will lead us through Confluence Park at Rivercreek on this walk sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. This area where Goose Creek joins the Potomac River has several features of interest. There has been work done along the river edge, adding many new trees. A large meadow should be reaching its peak as we walk through, noting all the butterflies and bees enjoying nectar. It is always a treat to see what berries and seeds are around for the birds in the woodland area. (Note: Rivercreek is open to attendees during the event but is private property; trails and HOA amenities are not open to the public.)

Dates and locations are subject to change. For up-to-date information on our programs or to register, visit our website at www.loudounwildlife.org or contact info@loudounwildlife.org.

Note: Due to COVID-19 concerns, our regular monthly bird walks are canceled through at least June 10. The Birdathon has been rescheduled until fall migration, and our spring Celebrate Birds events have been canceled.

Birding Banshee



hether you're a beginning birder or an expert, you'll be dazzled by the many bird species you'll find at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve south of Leesburg.

Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for the monthly bird walk at this birding hotspot. Bring binoculars if you have them. Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

Second Saturdays: June 13 and July 11, 8 a.m.



his monthly walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES), sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, takes us through fields, woods, and other wildlife-friendly habitat. We will explore parts of this beautiful 900-acre preserve and enjoy the varied birdlife. Meet at the Education Center; bring binoculars if you have them. BRCES is located just north of Neersville at 11661 Harpers Ferry Road (Route 671); detailed directions at www.blueridgecenter.org. Questions: Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

Fourth Saturdays: June 27 and July 25, 8:00 a.m.

Birding Bles Park

oudoun Wildlife Conservancy is pleased to offer a regular bird walk at Bles Park located along the Potomac River in eastern Loudoun. More than 175 different species of birds have been observed at Bles Park in a great mix of habitat. Everyone is welcome, whether you are an experienced or beginning birder. Bring binoculars if you have them. Questions: Contact Bryan Henson at bhenson@ loudounwildlife.org.

Third Sundays: June 21 and July 19, 8:00 a.m.



Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy P.O. Box 1892 Leesburg, VA 20177

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization US Postage Paid Mr. Print Purcellville, VA 20132



Join us **Virtually** for Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's 25th Annual Meeting!

Sunday, June 7, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Registration required!
Email info@loudounwildlife.org

Let's celebrate our 25th anniversary, ownership of JK Black Oak Wildlife Sanctuary, and our Volunteers of the Year! Guest speaker: Native bee expert Sam Droege

Photo by Sharon Plummer