

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY UPCOMING PROGRAMS and FIELD TRIPS

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING — LWC's Board meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg. All LWC members are welcome. Pre-meeting discussion begins at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting itself beginning at 7:30 p.m. *Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.*

BIRDING BANSHEE — **Saturday, July 12, 8:00 a.m.** Join LWC and the Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for the monthly bird walk. Because of its rich and varied habitat, this part of the county is a birding hot spot. Please bring binoculars. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

BUTTERFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT CLAUDE MOORE PARK— **Saturday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.** Join Mona Miller and Andy Rabin for one of LWC's free, family butterfly and dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas that comprise this beautiful park and identify all of the butterflies and dragonflies we can find. Claude Moore Park is located at 21544 Vestal's Gap Rd. in Sterling Va. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.*

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER — **Saturday, July 26, 8:00 a.m.** On the fourth Saturday of each month, LWC leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES). This beautiful 900-acre preserve is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, in northwestern Loudoun County. Only a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, the property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes on the Blue Ridge. Meet at the Neersville Volunteer Fire Station on Rt. 671 at 8:00 a.m. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org*

BUTTERFLY WALK, ORGANIC FARM TOUR, AND POTLUCK AT THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER — **Saturday July 26, 1:00 p.m.** Join us for a butterfly walk (1:00 p.m.) and tour of a seven-acre organic farm (2:00 p.m.). A potluck picnic lunch will follow, either outside on picnic tables or inside an open barn, depending on the weather. Guests are free to roam the trails and enjoy the different habitats, which include wetlands, meadows, rocky outcrops, creeks, seeps, and springs. This refreshing and informative event is co-sponsored by the Great Falls Group of the Sierra Club and LWC. The center is located just north of Neersville, at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Detailed directions can be found on the website, www.blueridgecenter.org. *Questions: Contact Linda Burchfiel at 703-506-4310 or larva@attglobal.net.*

12th ANNUAL LOUDOUN COUNTY BUTTERFLY COUNT — **Saturday, August 2, 9:00 a.m.** Come have fun while contributing to butterfly conservation. All skill levels are welcome. LWC will organize teams led by experienced butterflyers. We'll visit fields, farms, butterfly gardens and woods that span the county from White's Ferry in the east, to the Appalachian Trail and the Blue Ridge Center in the west, to Point of Rocks

south to Lincoln. This annual, mid-summer count, modeled after Christmas Bird Counts, is sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. This is a great chance to get outdoors and spot as many as 50 species of butterflies in a day. Spend a few hours in the morning or count all day. *For more information and to register, please visit our butterfly count page and sign up online (http://www.loudounwildlife.org/Butterfly_Count.htm) or contact Nicole Hamilton, 540-882-9638 or nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org.*

BUTTERFLY SAFARI — Sunday, August 3, (location and time TBD). Families with children ages 5 and up flutter on over and join the fun as local naturalist, storyteller, and the co-founder of the Washington Area Butterfly Club, Alonso Abugattas, catches and releases butterflies and shares some wonderful facts about these winged wonders. Discover the many clever ways these delicate creatures have of surviving. Questions: contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.

A SWIFT NIGHT OUT — August 8, 9, 10. As summer draws to a close and Chimney Swifts have finished raising their young, these fascinating aerial acrobats begin to congregate in communal roosts prior to their migration in the fall. Some roosts may consist of an extended family group of half-dozen birds or so, but the larger sites can host hundreds or even thousands of swifts! We encourage you to go out and look for this exhilarating spectacle and help us count the swifts. Here is how it works: several days prior to August 8, do some scouting and then over the next few days, keep your eyes to the skies at dusk and watch for areas where swifts are feeding. Look for a tall shaft, chimney or similar structure to locate where Chimney Swifts go to roost in your area (especially in the old historic parts of towns). Then, on one night over the weekend of August 8, 9, 10, observe the roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk and estimate the number of swifts that enter. When you have your numbers, contact us with your results and the location(s) where you counted swifts. That's all there is to it! We'll compile the information we receive and send it on the Driftwood Wildlife Association which tracks Chimney Swift activity across the country. For more information and results from past years, please visit: www.chimneyswifts.org and click on the "Swift Night Out" link. LWC would like to do a program on Chimney Swifts in the near future, so if you find some chimneys, towers, steeples or other locations where the swifts are roosting, please let us know.

BIRDING BANSHEE — Saturday, August 9, 8:00 a.m. See the July 12 listing for details.

DRAGONFLIES AT BANSHEE REEKS — Saturday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. - 12:00p.m. Join LWC for one of our free, family dragonfly walks. We will investigate some of the many diverse natural areas at Banshee Reeks and identify all of the dragonflies we can find. If you own binoculars, please bring them. *Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.*

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER — Saturday, August 23, 8:00 a.m. See the July 26 listing for details.

BUTTERFLIES AND BIRDS AT THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP — Saturday, August 30, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Join LWC on a general, butterfly and bird walk at this beautiful 900-acre preserve in

northwestern Loudoun County. We should see butterflies using the late summer wildflowers as well as early migrating birds. The Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship is located on Harpers Ferry Road, Rt. 671, a few miles south of Harpers Ferry and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. Meet at the Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

WINGS OVER SKY MEADOWS — Sunday, September 7, 8:00 a.m. - Noon. *Pre-registration required.* Only 30 minutes from western Loudoun and situated on the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Sky Meadows State Park offers a mix of habitats, including meadow, forest, field, and stream. We'll explore this natural area with leader Joe Coleman in a search for birds, both resident and fall migrants, and late-season butterflies. The walk will include up to three miles with some uphill and downhill in sunny terrain, but at a leisurely pace. Co-sponsored with the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS). ***Pre-registration required: Members (ANS & LWC): \$22; Nonmembers: \$30.50. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.***

BIRDING BANSHEE — Saturday, September 13, 8:00 a.m. See the July 12 listing for details.

MID-WEEK NATURE WALK AT ALGONKIAN PARK IN EASTERN LOUDOUN — Wednesday, September 17. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a mid-week, general nature walk. Check the web site for more details.

SUNDAY IN THE PRESERVE — Sunday, September 21, 1:00 p.m. Join a naturalist from the Friends of Banshee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this such a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316*

BIRDING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL AND HAWK WATCH — Saturday, September 20, 8:00 a.m. –2:00 p.m. Join us as we hike in the early morning along the Appalachian Trail in search of migrants. This section of the trail will lead us to a beautiful waterfall. Around 11:00 a.m., we will meet up with Liam McGranaghan — teacher, experienced falconer, and licensed bander of raptors — for a few hours of hawk-watching at the Snickers Gap Hawk Watch and, if we're lucky, a major push of Broad-winged Hawks. Bring a lunch and a folding chair. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Snickers Gap Hawk Watch to car pool to the close-by hike location or join us at 11:00 at Snickers Gap. *Questions: contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org.*

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER — Saturday, September 27, 8:00 a.m. See the July 26 listing for details.

LOUDOUN AMPHIBIAN MONITORING PROGRAM (LAMP) END OF SEASON CELEBRATION— (Date, Time, and Location TBD). *Registration Required.* Join us as we celebrate the end of our first, full season of amphibian monitoring. Meet fellow amphibian monitors, share experiences from the field, look at photographs, and discuss ideas about how we can make this even better for next year.

Complimentary copies of our Amphibian Monitoring Program posters will be available. Current volunteers as well as anyone interested in finding out more about our amphibian monitoring program are welcome. This is a potluck – so just bring a dish to share. Plates, utensils and beverages will be provided. *Please register online* (<http://www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm>) or to Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org or 540-882-9638.

BLUEBIRD NESTBOX MONITORING END OF SEASON CELEBRATION AND TRAIL TALLY — (Date, Time, and Location TBD). *Registration Required.* Say farewell to our bluebirds, tree swallows and house wrens as we celebrate another great season of bluebirds and their young. Meet fellow bluebird-nestbox monitors and hear reports from trail leaders on fledgling tallies for each of the trails. Plans for new trails will be discussed as well as changes to the program to enable registering and reporting data on backyard bluebird boxes or trails. Current volunteers as well as those interested in bluebird-nestbox monitoring are welcome. Predator guards and other items will be available for sale. Light snacks and beverages will be provided by LWC. *Please register online at* (<http://www.loudounwildlife.org/SignUp.htm>).

BIRDING BANSHEE — Saturday, October 11, 8:00 a.m. See the July 12 listing for details.

MID-WEEK NATURE WALK AT HORSEPEN IN EASTERN LOUDOUN — Wednesday, October 15. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a mid-week, general nature walk. Check the web site for more details.

SUNDAY IN THE PRESERVE — Sunday, October 19, 1:00 p.m. Join a naturalist from the Friends of Banshee Reeks and the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this such a special place. For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.

BIRDING THE BLUE RIDGE CENTER — Saturday, October 25, 8:00 a.m. See the July 26 listing for details.

IDENTIFYING HAWKS: A CLASS AND FIELD TRIP TO WAGGONER'S GAP, PA. *Registration Required.* (Date and location TBD) Check the web site for details.

Questions about the above programs? Contact Laura Weidner at lweidner@loudounwildlife.org or 540-229-2816.

For up-to-date information on our programs check our web site at
www.loudounwildlife.org