

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS and FIELD TRIPS

LWC Board Meeting — Board normally meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. All LWC members are welcome. *Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org for additional information.*

Birding Banshee — **Saturday, October 8, 8:00 a.m.** Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 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.*

Birding the Lucketts Area — **Wednesday, October 12, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on one of our mid-week birding trips. Gerco Hoogeweg and Mary Ann Good will lead as we drive some of the roads around Lucketts looking for migrants and other signs of fall. Meet at the Lucketts Community Center parking lot and car pool from there. This trip is co-sponsored with the Northern Virginia Bird Club. *Questions: contact Gerco Hoogeweg at drgerco@hotmail.com.*

The Fascinating World of Bats — **Wednesday, October 12, at the Carver Center in Purcellville, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Leslie Sturges of the Save Lucy Campaign will describe the fascinating and enchanting world of bats, our only flying mammal, and how important they are. She will also introduce the seven species of bats, some of which are common and some of which are rare, that call Loudoun County home. This free adult program is sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. The Carver Center is located at 200 Willie Palmer Way, Purcellville. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

Family Stream Day — **Saturday, October 15, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Join Loudoun Water for the 10th annual Family Stream Day. Come and experience the many ways you can help keep Loudoun's streams clean by smart landscaping, stormwater and erosion control, water conservation, stream assessment and monitoring, and more. Rain or shine. *Location: Loudoun Water, 44865 Loudoun Water Way, Ashburn, VA.*

Sunday in the Preserve — **Sunday, October 16, 1:00 p.m.** Join a naturalist from Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for a free, informal family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.*

Birding the Blue Ridge Center — **Saturday, October 22, 8:00 a.m.** On the fourth Saturday of each month (except December), Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES), a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes. The Blue Ridge Center is located just north of Neersville at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Meet at the Education Center. Detailed directions can be found at

www.brces.org. Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

Identifying Hawks: A Class and Field Trip to Waggoner's Gap, Pa. October 27 and 29.

Registration Required. Each fall, hawks migrate south along the Blue Ridge. On Thursday, October 27, at 7 pm, Liam McGranaghan, a master falconer, licensed bander of raptors, and educator, will teach a class on how to identify in the field hawks and other birds of prey. On Saturday, October 29, we will take a field trip to Waggoner's Gap in PA, about a 2.5 hour drive. Waggoner's Gap is one of the premier hawk-watching sites in our area, and if the weather cooperates, we should see a wide diversity of birds of prey, including Golden Eagles! While the field trip will be free, and one does not need to take the class to go on the field trip, there is a fee for the class (\$10/member or \$15/non-member). [Sign up online](#) or contact Laura McGranaghan at lmcgranaghan@loudounwildlife.org.

Plant a Tree — Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Loudoun County and the Town of Leesburg at Ida Lee Park for a tree planting event designed to improve the water quality of Big Spring Creek and create new wildlife habitat in the park. Please bring work gloves and, if you have one, a shovel with your name on it. Questions: contact Scott Sandberg at 571-258-3304 or scott.sandberg@loudoun.gov.

Reading the Land — Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration Required. Join Emily Southgate at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES) on a walk to discover man's impact on the land. The 900-acre Blue Ridge Center is comprised mostly of meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes today; however, people have lived and used the land there for centuries and have had a tremendous impact on it. Dr. Southgate, a historical ecologist, will describe what and how we can learn from studying man's impact on the land and ecology. The Blue Ridge Center, which is co-sponsoring this field trip, is located just north of Neersville at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Meet at the Education Center. Detailed directions can be found on the website, www.brces.org. To register [Sign-up online](#) or contact Joe Coleman at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542.

Birding Banshee — Saturday, November 12, 8:00 a.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 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.

Exploring Nature during a Changing Season — Sunday, November 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Registration Required. Join Phil Daley on this free, family walk as he explores the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship, looking at how plants and animals prepare for winter. Enjoy the fall foliage in this heavily forested preserve. The Blue Ridge Center comprises 900 acres of fields, forests, and wetlands on the west side of Harpers Ferry Road in northwestern Loudoun County. Meet at the Education Center, which is located just north of Neersville, at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road, Rte 671. Detailed directions can be found on the website, www.brces.org. To register [Sign-up online](#) or contact Phil Daley at 540-338-6528 or pdaley@loudounwildlife.org.

Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, November 20, 1:00 p.m. Join a naturalist from Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for a free, informal family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.*

Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, November 26, 8:00 a.m. On the fourth Saturday of each month (except December), Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES), a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes. The Blue Ridge Center is located just north of Neersville at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Meet at the Education Center. Detailed directions can be found at www.brces.org. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org*

Bird Walk at Dulles Greenway Wetlands — Sunday, December 4, 8:00 a.m. *Registration Required.* Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a bird walk at the Dulles Greenway Wetlands Mitigation Project where we will look for ducks, raptors, and sparrows. Waterproof footwear recommended. *To register [Sign-up online](#) or contact Joe Coleman at jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542.*

Birding Banshee — Saturday, December 10, 8:00 a.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 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.*

Sharing Your Enthusiasm for Nature — Sat, December 10, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. *Registration required.* Join naturalist Phil Daley for this informative seminar, co-sponsored by the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. Participants will discuss the ‘how to’s’ on leading small groups exploring the out-of-doors. We will discuss reference materials and equipment that will enhance a groups experience whether it is for children, family or adults. The basic purpose of this program is to increase the participants’ knowledge and confidence in sharing their enthusiasm for nature with others. Classroom: 1 ½ hours; followed by an interpretive walk; 1 ½ hours. Limited to 15 participants. Meet at the Blue Ridge Center’s Education Center, located just north of Neersville, at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road, Rte 671. Detailed directions can be found on the website, www.brces.org. *To register [Sign-up online](#) or contact Phil Daley at 540-338-6528 or pdaley@loudounwildlife.org.*

Birding Hotspots in Loudoun County — Sunday, December 11, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *Pre-registration required.* Join Joe Coleman and Laura McGranaghan on a daylong search for sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds at some of Loudoun County's richest birding destinations. The group will meet at ANS’s Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg and then travel to Beaverdam Reservoir, Banshee Reeks, and the Dulles Wetlands, before ending the day at Lucketts. All levels of birders are welcome. This program is co-sponsored between Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Audubon Naturalist Society. *Fee: members (ANS & LWC)/\$30; nonmembers/\$42. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.*

Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, December 18, 1:00 p.m. Join a naturalist from Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for a free, informal family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.*

Annual Central Loudoun Christmas Bird Count — Wednesday, December 28. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy as we participate in the National Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count. Started in 1899, these surveys are held all over the country, with the results used to better understand bird populations and dynamics. Our count-circle has a 15-mile diameter and covers 177 square miles of Loudoun's countryside: north to Waterford, south to Aldie, east to Ashburn, and west to Purcellville. This part of Loudoun County includes beautiful scenery and a variety of birds. Everyone is welcome, both beginners and expert birders (amateurs are teamed with experienced birders). *If you are interested in participating for the whole day or just part of the day, sign up online or contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count — Monday, January 2. The Calmes Neck Christmas Bird Count area, in far western Loudoun County and Clarke County, includes a wide variety of habitats, ranging from mountain forests to rural subdivisions to old farm fields and meadows, with the Shenandoah River running throughout. If you are interested in helping with this count, please contact Margaret Wester at 540-837-2799 or margaretwester@hotmail.com. Joe Coleman, jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org or 540-554-2542, and Phil Daley, pedaley@verizon.net or 540-338-6528, are sector leaders. Phil's area includes Round Hill and north, and Joe's area includes Bluemont south to Bloomfield. *If you are interested in joining either of them, please contact each directly.*

Birding Banshee — Saturday, January 14, 8:00 a.m. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy 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 in Winter — Sunday, January 15, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Registration Required. Location TBD. Where do butterflies go in the winter? How does a miniscule egg form into a beautiful creature of flight? Can you raise butterfly eggs to adulthood for release? These and many more questions will be answered by The Butterfly Lady, Mona Miller. Learn how you can help butterfly populations and encourage butterflies to over-winter in your very own backyard. This free program is sponsored by Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy. *Please [Sign up online](#). For questions, contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@loudounwildlife.org*

Winter Bird Walk at Bles Park — Saturday, Jan 21, 8:00 a.m. Join Andy Rabin for one of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy's free bird walks at Bles Park in eastern Loudoun County. A mostly level, gravel path makes it easy to explore this park, which contains wetlands and is bordered by the Potomac River and Broad Run. Please bring binoculars. We will meet in the parking lot on Riverside Parkway. Directions can be found at www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=924. Admission to the park is free and there is ample parking. *Questions: contact Andy Rabin at stylurus@gmail.com.*

Sunday in the Preserve — Sunday, January 22, 1:00 p.m. Join a naturalist from Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for a free, informal family walk around the preserve. Search for the many natural wonders that make this a special place. *For information call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.*

Searching for Birds of Prey — Sunday, January 22, 1:00 p.m. *Registration Required.* Join Liam and Laura McGranaghan on a winter raptor search. After meeting at a location TBD, we will drive the back roads of Loudoun County with frequent stops to find and identify the many hawks and an owl or two, who over winter here. [Sign up online](#) or contact Laura McGranaghan at lmcgranaghan@loudounwildlife.org.

Birding the Blue Ridge Center — Saturday, Jan 28, 8:00 a.m. On the fourth Saturday of each month (except December), Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy leads a free bird walk at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship (BRCES), a beautiful 900-acre preserve in northwestern Loudoun County. The property includes meadows in the valley and heavily forested slopes. The Blue Ridge Center is located just north of Neersville at 11611 Harpers Ferry Road (Rte 671). Meet at the Education Center. Detailed directions can be found at www.brces.org. *Questions: contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.*

Questions about the above programs? Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org

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