June 11 – THURSDAY – 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Flag Ponds, Calvert County
“NIGHTTIME HORSESHOE CRAB ADVENTURE AT FLAG PONDS”

Leader(s): Andy Brown and Melissa Boyle (melissaboyle3@gmail.com, 443-340-3035)
The horseshoe crab is one of nature’s miracles, and their eggs fuel the amazing migration of shorebirds! Want to see horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach by moonlight? Join us for this unique chance at water’s edge. Bring flashlights, and wear comfortable walking shoes that can get wet. Meet at the gate to Flag Ponds. RSVP to Melissa (see above) by June 8th.

June 23 – TUESDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

Patuxent River Park –
June 23 – TUESDAY – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND AUDUBON SOCIETY

Southern Maryland Audubon Society
P.O. Box 181 • Bryans Road, MD 20616

The Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) and is the largest citizen group involved in nature study and natural resource conservation issues in the Southern Maryland counties of Calvert, Charles, St. Mary’s and southern Prince George’s. SMAS was founded in 1971 and was chartered by the National Audubon Society in 1972. SMAS is a non-profit organization incorporated in Maryland, with activities funded by a membership dues-sharing arrangement with NAS and by SMAS fund raising activities. It operates under the provisions of an approved constitution with business conducted by directors and officers elected by its members.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly Meetings are held from September through June, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. These meetings are publicized in advance, open to the general public, and feature a guest speaker or film dealing with topics of nature and conservation. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing if the program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

An Annual Meeting for election of officers is usually held on the first Sunday of June. The program included a potluck lunch, election, and a late afternoon bird walk. The location varies each year amongst the four counties. Members are encouraged to bring guests.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trips are arranged for various weekends throughout the year and are led by experienced members. Special youth trips are also featured. If you are a new birder we strongly recommend you to join our trips as it is the best way to learn and lots of fun. You will discover the wonderful birding spots in Southern Maryland while learning more about our avian friends. A telephone and/or email address is listed with each leader. Most trips require guests to RSVP. Cancellation notification may be arranged directly from the leader or via the website.

RAPTOR CONSERVATION

Our Raptor Conservation is a primary effort of SMAS. The Raptor Conservation committee, aided by members, conducts research and enacts conservation activities in Southern Maryland. It is supported by our Adopt-a-Raptor program and currently includes four species: Osprey, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Please see our website or newsletter for adoption details and assist our cause.

For more information visit our website: www.somdaudubon.org
Find us on:
http://www.facebook.com/somdaudubon
April 1 – Wednesday – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

**Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County**

“**SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF BIRD MIGRATION**”

Dr. Gwen Brewer, Science Program Manager, Natural Heritage Program, Maryland DNR

The migration of birds has fascinated bird watchers and researchers alike for centuries. The amazing journeys of birds have been chronicled in song, poetry, and film, but how do they do it? This talk will summarize what we know about bird migration today, including exciting recent advances that have come about through the use of new technologies.

April 5 – Sunday – 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**FIELD TRIP**

**Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, St. Mary’s County**

“EAGLES, EARTH DAY, AND SOTTERLEY”

Leaders: David Moulton and Michael Patterson

Wrap up your Earth Day week exploring the bird life on this scenic and historic Patuxent River property. Nesting Bald Eagles, early migrants, meadowlarks, woodpeckers and waterfowl can be found via Sotterley’s extensive new trail system. From Route 235, go north on Sotterley Road, turn right through gates to the gravel parking lot on the Sotterley historic property. RSVP at moulton.davidh@gmail.com or 240-278-4473.

May 2 – Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

**FIELD TRIP**

**Elms Environmental Education Center, St. Mary’s County**

49300 St. James Road, Dameron, Maryland 20628

“**BIRDING 101**”

Leader(s): Dean Newman and Margarita Rochow

Calling on all wannabe birders!!** Youths Welcome!!**

Are you tired of wondering and saying “What bird is that?” Do you want to get better at knowing what birds you are seeing? Birding 101 is the field trip for you! The more you walk the walk, the better you become! The location at the Elms Environmental Education Center offers a great habitat for birds. Dean and Margarita will point out helpful identification points such as: bird bill and facial markings, plumage details, field marks, flight patterns, sound, behavior, and habitat and seasonal expectation. Learn about birding apps too. Call or email Dean to register: dean.newman@md.metrocast.net, dean.newman@dau.mil or 301-672-5464.

May 6 – Wednesday – 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAM**

**Charlotte Hall Library, St. Mary’s County**

“**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SPRING WILDFLOWERS**”

Karyn Molines, Maryland Native Plant Society

Chapter Chair

After a long dark winter, the colorful and fragrant flowers carpeting the ground bring out primal feelings of rejuvenation and energy. The abundance of plant growth is an amazing ecological phenomenon that is highlighted by a profusion of flowers. Karyn will provide examples of the diversity of flowers typical of a southern Maryland forest, while pointing out the ecological importance of this seasonal explosion of plant growth. Note: Karyn will also be leading a Sotterley Wildflowers walk at Flag Ponds Nature Park on April 23rd hosted by the Calvert Nature Society. We recommend a spring “double hitter” by registering for her walk and then coming to our May 6th program. See their website at www.calvertpark.org, go to Calendar of Events for information and to register for the walk. The Audubon program is free and does not require registration.

May 9 – Saturday – All day

**FIELD TRIP**

**Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, St. Mary’s County**

“**EAGLES, EARTH DAY, AND SOTTERLEY**”

We are very excited to be able to have our annual meeting at this beautiful historic St. Mary’s County location. The meeting will be located at the open air Riverside Pavilion. Secluded and located on a bluff overlooking Sotterley Creek and the Patuxent River, the Pavilion is surrounded by majestic trees and water views. This will be one of our loveliest meeting venues and best bird walk due to the habitat and nature trails this location provides.

Directions: From Maryland Route 235 go north onto Maryland 245, Sotterley Road. Turn right onto Sotterley Lane. Follow signs to the Riverside Pavilion, parking is available.

Barn Owls & Breakfast, Charles County

Youths especially welcome!

Mid-May to early June. The exact date to be determined, it all depends on the owls! Watch our Osprey newsletter and website for date and details.

Leader: Mike Callahan (240-765-5192, raptorsulem@gmail.com)

A different kind of B&B! Come and enjoy breakfast before helping our Raptor Conservation Committee chair Mike check a Barn Owl nest box, and hopefully band nestling owls. This trip takes place on private property in southern Charles County. The location and directions will be given when you contact Mike to register and reserve your spot. This event fills up rapidly. There is a small fee involved to cover the cost of food. Please bring your own reusable plate, mug, and utensils.

June 7 – Sunday – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Sotterley Plantation, St. Mary’s County**

43400 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood, Maryland 20636

Potluck Lunch ......................... 1:00 – 2:15

Welcome ............................... 2:15 – 2:30

Award Presentations ................... 2:30 – 3:00

Bird Walk ................................ 3:00 – 4:00

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