



Weyanoke Wildlife Sanctuary

Pathways Spring 2020

Coronavirus and the Weyanoke Sanctuary

Hello Neighbors and Friends,

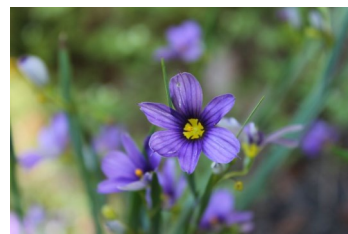
First off we hope that everyone is well and maintaining responsible anti virus precautions. Because of the pandemic we thought it especially important that the Sanctuary stays open and available for people to go to as a place of safety and relaxation where folks can go in these times of stress. We have had lots of people take advantage of this; families, young kids, older folks, all enjoying the fresh outdoors. We are very thankful for the way that trash is mostly picked up and the Sanctuary is mostly respected.

Unfortunately there have been some people that ignore the rules, and bring their dogs and bikes in the Sanctuary and then get angry when someone points out the rules. We have also had two break-ins at our shed on the property, locks cut and chains stolen, a Tazz wood chipper, that used to be green with a bent left rear axel in case anyone has seen it, was stolen, in addition to packs of work gloves and face masks used by our volunteers.

As a result of the break-ins and thefts we will now lock the Sanctuary up every night. We will install surveillance and security equipment at great expense. We also need to give the Sanctuary a rest from all the human contact that has been going on, with so many people using the space. This is, after all, a bird and wildlife sanctuary, not a people sanctuary, and it needs time to recuperate. Once the state wide lockdown expires we will have a Sanctuary lockdown for at least a month, to allow the Sanctuary time to recoup.

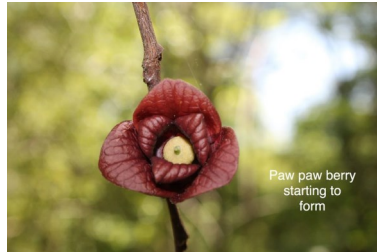
We want to keep this place as an enjoyable refuge for people and wildlife and appreciate your cooperation and understanding. By the way, whoever did the wonderful, artistic, colorful paint job on the bench at the fallen oaks, thank you so much! It's beautiful and if you would like to do some more of same, we have benches all over that could really use the same. We may even be willing to pay for the paints! Let us know.

Thank you and stay safe,
Mike Schoen
Chairman of the Sanctuary Committee



Spring Photos and Scout Updates

It has been a lovely spring, with light rains and sunny days, low humidity and soft breezes. The Sanctuary has been bursting with blooms. One of our committee members, Tamara Haines, has been taking beautiful photographs of the plants and animals she sees on her weekly visits. Another member and Master Gardener Donna VanKeuren also takes photos of blooms during her visits. Thank you to those that have shared photos on our Facebook page! Feel free to send any along to: pathwayseditor@gmail.com and we can include them in upcoming newsletters.



Clockwise from top left: Fringe tree blossom, Pawpaw blossom, Passionfruit blossom, Newly painted bench, Silky camelia, Pollinator visitor on Wild Indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*)

Photos by Tamara Haines and Donna VanKeuren.



Bryan Reali from Troop 1 constructed a new sign for our entryway as part of his Eagle Scout Project! Thank you so much for the much needed face lift!



Girl Scouts Juniors (Ailan Hall and Nora Staggs) and Cadette (Alison Flechtner) completed a project learning about birds by volunteering to remove invasive ivy from mature trees at the Sanctuary back in January. We are so thankful for our scout partners and look forward to seeing them again in the future.

For the Birds

Guided Bird/Nature Walks at Weyanoke:

All guided walks and other activities have been postponed until further notice. We will post updates via Facebook and through our newsletter. Please also check the Cape Henry Audubon Society Website: www.chasnorfolk.org for updates on birding news and activities.

POSTPONED

Birding is Taking Off!

Many people have turned to the birds now during this time of social distancing as a new hobby and way to enjoy nature. It is a great way to relieve stress and possibly learn a few new things. Some suggestions from the Audubon Society:

- 1. Do a backyard bird count:** Help scientists learn more about bird populations. On a pretty day, sit outside for 15 minutes and record all the birds you see. If you can't make it outside, you can look through your window and record your findings. Put your data into ebird.org and contribute to data collection to help scientists. Anyone can take part in a backyard bird count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard.
- 2. Go on a solo bird walk:** Grab your binoculars, pen, paper, mosquito repellent, and head to a nearby park. For new birders, [visit audubon.org/news](http://visit.audubon.org/news) for a great deal of information on beginning birding.
- 3. Build nest boxes:** Spring is time to clean out bird houses, and at-home activities could include building new ones. Visit la.audubon.org/conservation/build-birdhouse for a quick guide on building a protective and functional nest box for birds.
- 4. Make hummingbird nectar:** Hummingbirds may be little, but they work hard. Help them replenish by making your own hummingbird nectar. Mix 1/4 cup of refined white sugar into boiling water until dissolved. Wait until cool and then fill your feeder.
- 5. Research native plants:** You can research native plants for your area with Audubon's Native Plant Database Tool. Planting native plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, better for the environment, and help create bird-friendly communities.

For much more on bird activities while at home see below:

<https://www.audubon.org/birding/how-to-start-birding>

<https://www.audubon.org/news/self-isolation-turning-children-budding-birders>



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About the Weyanoke Wildlife Sanctuary

The Weyanoke Wildlife Sanctuary was created in 1979 by the Norfolk and Western (now Norfolk Southern) Railway's gift of land (via the Nature Conservancy) to the Cape Henry Audubon Society. The Sanctuary is located at 1501 Armistead Bridge Road, Norfolk VA 23507 at the edge of West Ghent. Our 7 acres of woodland, creek and meadow are supported by donations which can be mailed to: Weyanoke/CHAS, c/o Tamarra Haines, 1015 Brandon Ave., Norfolk VA, 23507. The gates are open to the public on weekends and major holidays. A guided nature walk is held on the third Saturday of every month, at 9 a.m. Special tours can be arranged and volunteers are always welcome. Please call Mike Schoen, 757-364-9406, for more information. The mission of the Wildlife Sanctuary is to protect the forest, meadows, marshlands and creek and to preserve the native plants within its boundaries—thereby creating an environment where wildlife will flourish and people can experience and be nourished and educated by the natural world. Our stewardship is completely volunteer driven and is conducted in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, the Cape Henry Audubon Society, the local Master Gardeners, other organizations and community volunteers.

