

Sunday, February 12th, 2012 MAEOE Conference Field Experiences

Winter Bird Walk - Exploring Inlet Hotspots

7:30am - 11:30am

Location: Meet in the hotel lobby

Bring your binoculars and enjoy outdoor education opportunities while identifying winter bird residents in the local environs. Join **Wayne Bell**, who has conducted winter birding trips to Ocean City for more than 20 years, and explore inland hot spots to identify wintering bird life with emphasis on northern species that do not breed in Maryland. Possibilities include Common and Red-throated Loons, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, Peregrine Falcon, Bonaparte's Gull, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, and many other species of sea duck and puddle duck.

Mr. Bell is senior associate, Washington College and past-president, Maryland Ornithological Society.

Bring your own binoculars; spotting scopes also useful and those available will be shared.

Layers of warm clothing essential.

Beginning birders of all ages welcome.

Winter Canoeing on the Pocomoke River

9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: Participants will meet at the Pocomoke River Canoe Company in Snow Hill, Maryland, located at the drawbridge at 312 North Washington Street in Snow Hill. For directions or more information, please visit:

<http://www.atbeach.com/amuse/md/canoe/>

Join **Jim Rapp**, Director of the Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center, for a winter paddle on the dark waters of the Pocomoke River. The Pocomoke is known as the northernmost of the southern swamps. The bald cypress swamp is home to the pileated woodpecker, barred owl, beaver, and river otter.

From Snow Hill, vans will carry participants to the Nassawango Creek canoe launch at Red House Road. We will paddle through sections of The Nature Conservancy's Nassawango Creek Preserve back to Snow Hill.

For information about the Preserve: <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maryland/preserves/art21134.html>

Additional Fee: \$25 includes canoe, paddle and PFD.

Please dress for winter weather, and bring binoculars!

For more information or last minute updates, please call Jim Rapp at 443-614-0261 or email dlitedirector@comcast.net.