



## **Maryland Master Naturalist Program receives 2016 ANROSP Program of the Year Award**

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO (September 23, 2016) – The Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP) concluded its national conference with an awards ceremony held at the Randall Davey Audubon Center and Sanctuary.

The [Maryland Master Naturalist Program](#) received the 2016 ANROSP Program of the Year Award. This award recognizes an especially innovative ANROSP member program, including their set of educational materials and events aimed at a specified audience, for its unique, cutting edge, risk-taking educational programs that succeed in meeting the program's objectives.

The Maryland Master Naturalist Program is a science-based natural resource volunteer training program developed by University of Maryland Extension (UME) with support from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and other state and local agencies and organizations. Piloted in 2010, the program has now trained nearly 1,000 individuals and recorded over \$1.3 million worth of volunteer service in the state of Maryland. Partnerships with state and local environmental organizations, agencies, and citizen groups support the program throughout the state and as of 2016, there are thirty-one program Host Sites utilizing the program to train and engage Maryland Master Naturalist volunteers.

Wanda MacLachlan, Program Director, and Joy Shindler Rafey accepted the award on behalf of the Maryland Master Naturalist Program, University of Maryland Extension.

Amy Rager, ANROSP President and Minnesota Master Naturalist Program Director, said "ANROSP provides member programs an opportunity to share their best work in the areas of Outstanding Educational Materials, Outstanding Volunteer Project, Outstanding Team, Outstanding Program Evaluation and Program of the Year. Each year ANROSP is proud to highlight programs from across the United States in each of these categories." Award applications are peer reviewed and selection is made by the ANROSP Awards Committee, chaired by the ANROSP Vice President.

About ANROSP: The Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs is a national network of natural resource education and service programs which provides leadership, information, and resources to support the establishment and expansion of its member programs. **For more information please visit [ANROSP.org](#)**