



Mid-Atlantic Region Fall - Winter 2014-2015 Calendar

Remembering one of the founding mothers of Women Outdoors

Jan Brown, one of the founders of Women Outdoors in 1980, died this spring in her home in Chestnut Hill, MA, at age 83. Jan attended every annual Women Outdoors Gathering from 1980 – 2011 until her health prevented her from coming. Lisa Vaas from our Eastern Massachusetts region wrote the following appreciation of Jan.

I'm writing this on Monday evening, April 14, 2014. It's a day after we got the news that our dear friend Jan Brown, one of the founding members of Women Outdoors, has died.



Oddly, I'm more happy than sad. I think it's because I searched through my photos and found an album from The 2010 Gathering, and the first photo in that album is one of Jan, doing something that's very Jan. In the photo, she's pinning black and white clippings to a bulletin board in the Sargent Center, to illustrate her fabulous, thorough, rich and deep bibliography of books written by and about women adventurers.



In the second photo, she's turned to look at me, and she's smiling, full bore, one finger still pointing to a photo of what looks like a Victorian-era adventurer, posing with a flock of nearly naked children in what must be a tropical country - Africa, maybe? - and holding one of the children in her arms. In another photo, the subject (and author, maybe?) of "Sled Dog Trails" is bundled up, rosy cheeked in some cold land, but she seems to be looking right at Jan from across the ages, beaming with exuberance and zest, while Jan is turned to the camera, beaming that same energy at us.

How odd, to think that the energy has been extinguished. But no, I guess I don't really believe that it has. I think that she lit a flame in many of us. With her kindness, with her hard work with Franny to keep Women Outdoors Magazines coming, with her archival work, with her generous loans of books about women explorers, with the inspiring photo albums documenting the many trips she took with her partner, Margaret, whom Jan lost in the past few years.

Jan was generous with stories, generous with books, generous with her love of other cultures and other lands, generous with enthusiasm. I feel a glow when I look at this photo of Jan's smile. Jan, I'll miss you. Thank you for birding walks. I never had the right binoculars, but you shared, and I thank you.

Thank you for the wildflower walks. I'm sending along photos of flowers we found at Sargent Center. May they be a bouquet to lay in your arms. Thank you so much, from the bottom of our hearts, for lighting us up with your exquisite soul and your wonderful life.

Lisa

Lisa's appreciation referred to Jan's bibliography by and about women adventurers. This incomparable bibliography of more than 1000 current and classic books by women on adventure travel, wilderness and country living, and nature study can be downloaded from the Members Only* section of WomenOutdoors.org (*login first

to see the Members Only link). You can also download the condensed bibliography of about 250 recommended books and the index, which cross-references the books in both bibliographies by location, sport and topic.

See you in the outdoors!

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Date	Event – Event calendar updated on September 19, 2014
<p>Saturday, October 11 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Flyway/Byway Bike Ride – Cambridge, MD. We'll bike a 25-mile loop through Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, flat country roads and tidal marshes. In the fall, thousands of migrating geese, ducks and tundra swans take to the Atlantic Flyway and make a pit stop at Blackwater on their way south. \$3/car.</p>
<p>Saturday, October 25 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Staying Found – Potomac, MD. The Connecticut RC is making a special trip to our Mid-Atlantic region to lead this workshop on outdoor skills. Come learn skills such as using a compass, reading a map, staying found. We will play compass games and talk about survival scenarios.</p>
<p>Friday - Sunday, November 7-9</p>	<p>Blue Ridge Weekend Getaway – Purcellville, VA. We're staying at the Demory-Wortman House at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship. <i>This event is full, but join us on the Maryland Heights hike and then come back to the house and join us for happy hour.</i></p>
<p>Saturday, November 8 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Maryland Heights Hike – Harpers Ferry, WV. This strenuous ~6-mile hike heads up the Stone Fort Trail past Civil War artillery batteries and through boulders to the Civil War Stone Fort. After the hard work, we'll take the Overlook Cliff Trail to a spectacular view of the town and the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. \$10/car.</p>
<p>Saturday, December 6 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Billy Goat Trail Sections B & C Hike – Potomac, MD. Not as famous (nor nearly as strenuous) as Section A, these segments of the Billy Goat Trail offers some nice rock outcroppings and a variety of scenery along the Potomac River. We'll hike about 6 miles. You can also finish up the hike at the end of Section B, if you prefer a shorter hike.</p>
<p>Saturday, January 10 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>New Year's Resolution Hike – We've resolved to hike but we're not sure where yet. Stay tuned.</p>
<p>Sunday, January 11 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Planning Meeting / Potluck Brunch – Takoma Park, MD. Come bring your ideas for adventures for Spring and Summer 2015. Good food, great women. Be there.</p>
<p>Saturday, January 31 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Potluck Dinner and Movie Night – Falls Church, VA. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner first and then watch a movie with an environmental theme. Email your movie ideas to midatlantic@womenoutdoors.org.</p>
<p>Saturday, February 21 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Winter Waterfowl Hike – Grasonville, MD. The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center on the Eastern Shore provides habitat for a variety of birds in the winter. Bring your binoculars. We'll wander the trails for an easy ~3-mile walk. \$5/person entrance fee.</p>
<p>Saturday, March 21 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Bike and Barbeque – Ashburn, VA. We'll ride about 20 miles on the W & OD rail trail in Loudoun County from Ashburn to Purcellville and back and then treat ourselves to some famous Carolina Brothers Barbeque on the bike trail.</p>