



# AMS News

AMS website -- [www.mappers.org](http://www.mappers.org)

Association of Mapping Seniors Newsletter

## Upcoming AMS Events

Your AMS Board met and scheduled the following events for 2022. Several events are still being finalized. Once arrangements are finished, notifications are sent via email, and posted on the AMS website [www.mappers.org](http://www.mappers.org); Facebook, and AMS Life. Place these dates on your calendar now and plan to attend “Keeping in Touch and Having Fun!”



### Spring Luncheon

As Spring approaches, we are anxious for warm weather, trees budding, smell of fresh air as windows are opened to allow the warm breeze into our homes. Watching flowers pop-

up through the ground reminds us of life awakening. Spring weather is so unpredictable! One day so warm you want to turn on the AC then the next day you just can't get warm enough and you look-out the window and you see snow flurries! Normally by the first of May the unpredictable temperatures are becoming more constant with warm weather each day. Yippee!! Take a leisurely car cruise looking at the beautiful scenery. Join your friends and colleagues at the AMS Spring Luncheon traditionally held at **Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, MD**. Come early to meet and greet socializing with former colleagues and friends who have come out of hibernation during the winter months and exchange plans for the coming year.

Reservation form is on page 7.

**Date:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Cost:** Determined by your menu selection

**Place:** Dutch's Daughter

581 Himes Avenue. Frederick, MD 21701



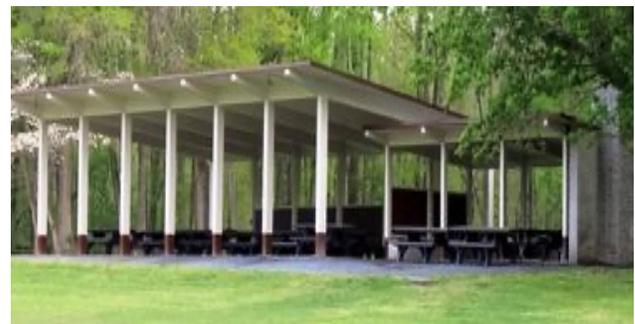
### Summer Gathering

AMS members continue to gather at **Fisherman's Inn at Crab Deck** in Grasonville, MD. With the high cost of crabs, once again this event is

ala carte – each person orders from the menu and pays their tab upon their departure. Their menu has a variety of selections including sandwiches, salads, soups, variety of seafood, and of course desserts. This link has menu selections –

<https://crabdeck.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/crab-deck-072921.pdf>

Although there is no requirement for reservations, please notify us if you plan to attend. The preferred method is to respond via email to [mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com) and include “**Attention AMS Summer Gathering**” in the Subject line. This information will help the restaurant prepare and arrange for the right number of tables for our group. Thank you.



### Picnic

The picnic is enjoyed by all who attended. Having the picnic at the familiar Carderock large pavilion holds many memories of office and department feasts and award ceremonies. The 2021 picnic menu included hot dogs,

(Continue on page 3)

## AMS PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



For those who attempted to connect for the AMS online St. Patrick’s Day event, our apologies for the technical difficulties. Usually, we have few, if any, issues, however, this was not the case that day. Thank you for your patience. We’ll figure out

what happened and make necessary changes for future online events.

On the positive side, Spring is finally here! The days are generally warmer, although Maryland’s weather reminds us that frost is still possible into early May. You can find more information on gardening and frost dates later in this newsletter. In other outdoor news, my wife and I crossed off a bucket list item. We drove to the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Pennsylvania to view the snow geese and tundra swans as they rested over during their migration north. It was a crisp day, not too cold, and the sights and sounds were simply amazing. Daily totals will vary, but there were some 62,000+ snow geese and 240+ tundra swans, plus a number of other species, there when we visited. Hopefully each of you find something to enjoy as the seasons continue their eons old transitions.

For 2022, based on current federal, state and county guidance, the Board plans to return to mostly in-person social events. The first, our annual Spring Luncheon, is Wednesday, May 4th at 11:30 am. Look for details and the sign-up form online and elsewhere in this newsletter. Other in-person social events are planned for August (Summer Gathering), October (Carderock Park Picnic) and December (Annual Meeting). Stay informed by keeping up with the AMS News, look for AMS emails, and please check the AMS website and/or Facebook page regularly.

With AMS members located all across the country, achieving our motto of “Keeping in touch and having fun” will always require a little time and effort. Take care of yourself and each other.

## AMS Keeping in Touch



Email is an important method for announcing events, registration forms, sharing obituaries, and other pertinent information. Send your AMS info and inquiries to [mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com)

If you are not receiving emails from AMS, check your “JUNK” folder or contact us at [mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com) and include “**Attention Membership**” in the Subject line to verify your email address.



The AMS website, [www.mappers.org](http://www.mappers.org), is another good source of information on current and past AMS events. Check out the many tabs filled with a wealth of information for and about our members and events! If you have ideas or information for the website, please forward it to [mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com) and include “**Attention Webmaster**” in the Subject line.



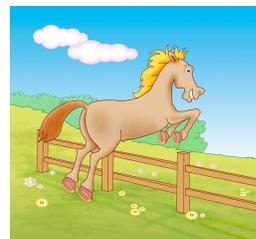
AMS is on Facebook, and you are invited to join other members there and include your contributions! You can share your vacation and retirement adventures, and other activities you enjoy. Or just read the posts from other members while also keeping current with AMS activities too. Members are permitted to post directly but must keep content appropriate for and consistent with the AMS purpose, membership, by-laws, procedures and guidelines.

If you are not already a Facebook friend, go to the search block on Facebook and enter Association of Mapping Seniors or simply AMS and from the drop-down list select **Association of Mapping Seniors**. ***Once on the AMS page select “Join”*** and answer the 3 pertinent questions for “***Keeping in Touch and Having Fun!***” Pam Troutman is the AMS Facebook custodian!!

[\(15\) Association of Mapping Seniors \(AMS\) | Facebook](#)

**Teacher:** Give me a sentence which includes the words: defense, defeat, detail.

**Student:** When a horse jumps over defense, defeat go first and then detail.



(Upcoming AMS Events – continued from page 1)

**Picnic** – hamburgers, and chicken grilled by AMS member Rob Thomas, along with potato salad and packaged chips were served and bottled water. Folks attending brought snacks and packaged desserts for sharing. This year will have similar menu. Once all details are finalized, the menu and costs will be announced.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 5, 2022

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Cost:** TBD

**Place:** Carderock Large Pavilion  
Carderock Park  
Bethesda, MD 21638

**Annual Meeting/Holiday Luncheon**



The AMS Annual Meeting is held following the Holiday Luncheon. The election of board officers is conducted and usually a synopsis of the year in review along with future plans, and any other pertinent information for sharing is provided to the membership. Members can also bring an unwrapped toy for donation the item to the local Salvation Army Angel Tree. The 2022 Holiday Luncheon/Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at Dutch’s Daughter.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 7, 2022

**Time:** 11:30 AM

**Cost:** TBD

**Place:** Dutch’s Daughter  
581 Himes Avenue. Frederick, MD 21701



The AMS will celebrate its **Golden Anniversary** during 2024. AMS was organized in 1974 just two years after the founding of the Defense Mapping Agency in 1972. The AMS Board is asking for volunteers to help plan this event, with a goal of planning being mostly finalized by mid-2023. If you are interested in serving on the AMS 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, please forward an email to AMS at [mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com)

**2022 AMS Executive Board**

- President – Lon Hamann
- Vice President – Harry Sturman
- Secretary – Patricia Sturman
- Treasurer – Merle Biggin

# Membership

## Welcome New AMS Members

**Nancy Ellenberger**

Looking forward to meeting our new member at an AMS event this coming year.



If you know the contact information for any of these “Missing Members” listed below, please email any information you have to

[mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com) and

include **“Attention Membership”** in the subject line. Thank you!



To avoid being placed on the “Missing Members” list, please remember to email any changes to your contact information to [mappingseniors@outlook.com](mailto:mappingseniors@outlook.com) and include **“Attention Membership”** in the subject line.

### Missing Members

Gladys Dantzler	Zona J Davis
Donald & Susan Gonchar	Frank R Walden



**Postage & Printing Donors - AMS News**

**Raymond Barbeau**

“Keeping in Touch”  
*Thank you for your generosity!*



## Planning to Visit a National Park?

If warmer weather has you thinking about visiting a National Park, a good place to start your planning is the National Park Service’s “Plan Your Visit” webpage at

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/index.htm>

Under “Important Links”, is their “Find a Park” webpage at

<https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm> which enables you to search for Parks by selecting one of the 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Island, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands. Selecting Maryland, the first two results listed were *Antietam National Battlefield* and the *Appalachian National Scenic Trail*. Each listing provides a small description of the park, a representative photo and links to learn more.

To better refine your searching, the Park Service also offers an advanced search enabling you to search by State, Activity (e.g., boating, hiking, snowshoeing), and/or Topic (e.g., animals, archeology, glaciers) <https://www.nps.gov/findapark/advanced-search.htm>.



NWFCU has many products and services for members, including numerous loan types – home, car, personal are just a few, checking and savings, certificates, and IRAs. Starting a business or own an existing business? Check out **NWFCU** resources that can help you. **NWFCU** also offers members other resources such as fraud prevention, webinars, private banking and FAQs. Get the full scope of resources at [www.NWFCU.org](http://www.NWFCU.org)

## Virtual Visits – National Park Service Webcams and Other Multimedia

Want to check out a National Park without leaving your home? There are numerous National Park Service webcams and other multimedia available through their “Multimedia Search” page at

[https://www.nps.gov/media/multimedia-search.htm#sort=Date\\_Last\\_Modified+desc](https://www.nps.gov/media/multimedia-search.htm#sort=Date_Last_Modified+desc)

You can filter results based on Photo, Video, Audio, Webcam and Podcast. Selecting Webcam yields 194 results, with a location search down the left side and the overall results listing down the right side, although how the results are sorted is a mystery for now.

A favorite is the *Yellowstone National Park* live stream from the Old Faithful Geyser. Links to it, plus eight other static cameras with regularly updating views of current conditions at various park locations, are online at

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>

If you are looking for a NPS “Watching Wildlife” webcam, check out their “Bear Cams”, “Ocean Cams” or “Eagle Cams” online at

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/watchingwildlife/webcams.htm>

While the live streaming cameras can be particularly interesting, you never know what you will see.

**Questions?** [Make an appointment](#) to meet with a mortgage lending representative. We look forward to helping you find your way home!

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844-709-8900  
M-F: 7AM - 7PM ET Sat: 8AM - 1PM ET



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## Gardening and Native Plants



Yay! Spring is finally here!

Before you rush off and buy a tray or two of tender annuals and start planting them when you get home, check online to see when the average last frost date is for your area. The University of Maryland (UMD) Extension office suggests the National Gardening Association’s “Frost Dates” webpage

<https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates/> as it allows you to enter your Zip Code and see “when your average first frost and last frost dates are likely to happen.” Entering a local Zip Code in Maryland shows only a 10% chance of a 32-degree day on May 7<sup>th</sup>. So, the second week in May is generally okay to start planting annual flowers and other warm season plants such as tomatoes and peppers around here. Of course, every garden is different so learn about your own home’s microclimate.

Something else to consider is to include plants native to your area. The UMD Extension office includes the following good reasons to include native plants <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/why-include-native-plants-your-garden> :

- Preserve [local] biodiversity: Garden plants can cross pollinate with wild plants. If using native plants, this can help wild plant populations, which in turn helps the pollinators.
- Support pollinators: Native plants and insects have co-evolved over time. Using native plants creates a supportive space for pollinators, e.g., butterflies and native bees, and can attract beneficial insects.
- Support songbirds: Seeds, berries and a habitat with native plants help sustain native bird species. The native insects drawn to the native plants are an important food source for baby songbirds.
- Low input landscapes: Using native plants, placed in their appropriate environmental conditions, can help you reduce fertilizer, pesticide and heavy water usage.

So, choose your native, and other plants, taking into account your USDA Hardiness Zone and site-specific soil, water, light and temperature conditions. The National Gardening Association’s “USDA Hardiness Zone Finder” makes finding your “Hardiness Zone” easy as you simply enter your Zip Code to get your Zone based on both the old 1990 map and the new 2012 map.

<https://garden.org/nga/zipzone/> Bethesda, MD . My home is in Zone 6b according to the old map and is Zone 7a now based on the new map. The old Zone 6b corresponded to an “Average Annual Minimum Temperature Range” from -5 to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The new Zone 7a corresponds to an “Average Annual Extreme Temperature” range from 0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit. If you are curious as to why the change, this same web page describes the approaches used and explains the changes.

A little online research can help make appropriate selections for your area and conditions. A good resource in most states can be their Extension/Cooperative Extension Service. For example, Maryland’s Extension lists possible native plant selections for the state across different categories and species

<https://extension.umd.edu/resource/recommended-native-plants-maryland> such as:

- Ground covers and ferns, e.g., Christmas Fern, Lady Fern
- Native grasses, sedges and rushes, e.g., Blue Sedge, Little Bluestem
- Native wildflowers, e.g., Black-Eyed Susan, Eastern Columbine
- Shrubs, e.g., Winterberry Holly, Northern Bayberry, Virginia Sweetspire
- Trees, e.g., Eastern Redbud, White Oak.

As always, check with your doctor before undertaking any new or physically demanding tasks or hobbies. Take care. And have fun.

## IN REMEMBRANCE



**Virginia Ann Michael “Ginny”**, 96, passed away Friday February 18, 2022 at her Gaithersburg home at Asbury Methodist Village with her family by her side. Ginny was born October 21, 1925 in Springfield, IL to Richard L. and Ruth Workman Rakes and grew up on their farm in Waverly, IL. She graduated from Waverly High School in 1943 and went on to graduate from Stephens College in Columbia, MO in 1945. At Stephens she was one of the first to participate in the aviation program for women and gained her first set of wings and private pilot’s license. After graduation she moved to Washington DC and worked for PCA Capital Airlines, Lansburgh’s Department Store, the **Army Map Service** and retired from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She was a lifelong member of the Order of the Eastern Star. Ginny married Roy L. Michael July 2, 1950. The two were lifelong companions who loved

to bowl, golf, sew, quilt and play bridge. For years she was an active member of the Rockville United Methodist Church’s caring ministry volunteering with the FISH and SOME organizations. A consummate entertainer she took great pride in company of others and sharing her time and energy. She traveled with her friends to national bowling events, Super Bowls supporting her beloved Redskins and performing practical jokes on all of her companions and family. She was preceded in death by Roy, her sister Joyce and brother Don. Ginny is survived by her two sons Rick Michael (Winter) of Oakton, VA and Bud Michael of Mt. Airy, MD, grandmother to Colin (Rachel), Richard (Aleia), Daley (Grant Thorne), Heath (Mariana), Nicole and Donald, great grandmother to Tucker.

## *Approaching Holidays*

**Mother’s Day – Sunday, May 8** Mother’s Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society.

**Memorial Day – Monday May 30** Memorial Day is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly observed on May 30 from 1868 to 1970.

**Flag Day – Tuesday, June 14** Flag Day is celebrated on June 14 and commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.

**Father’s Day – Sunday, June 19** Father’s Day is a celebration honoring people’s fathers and celebrating the fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in their society. It was first proposed by Sonora Dodd of Spokane, Washington in 1909.

**Independence Day – Monday, July 4** **Independence Day** is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776.

**Labor Day – Monday, September 5** Labor Day is a federal holiday in the United States celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements of the United States.

**Columbus Day – Monday, October 10** Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries of the Americas and elsewhere, and a federal holiday in the United States, which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

**Veterans Day – Friday, November 11** Veterans Day is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

**Thanksgiving – Thursday, November, 24** Thanksgiving in the United States has been observed on differing dates. From the time of the Founding Fathers until the time of Lincoln, the date of observance varied from state to state. On October 31, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a presidential proclamation changing the holiday to the next to last Thursday in November in an effort to boost the economy.



# RESERVATION FORM

# AMS Spring Luncheon

## Dutch’s Daughter

581 Himes Avenue Frederick, MD 21703

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022 @ 11:30 AM**

Write the name of those attending and place a check beneath their menu selection.

Name (Please PRINT your name)	Atlantic Salmon <b>\$28.00</b>	Hawaiian Chicken <b>\$28.00</b>	Beef Medallions <b>\$28.00</b>	Crab Cake <b>\$34.00</b>
1.				
2.				

**Entrees include ---** Tossed Garden Salad, Seasonal Fresh Vegetable, Twice Baked Potato, Chef’s Choice of Dessert, Coffee, Tea, and Soda

Cost is per person as indicated with menu selection (includes tax and gratuities)

**Note: Meal will be served between noon and 12:30pm**

Please include number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment** by check (enclosed) \_\_\_\_\_ or PayPal (on-line) \_\_\_\_\_

Please volunteer assisting with:

**Hand out Name Tags** \_\_\_\_\_ **Sell 50/50 Raffle Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for assisting!

**Completed reservation form and payment due by April 22, 2022**

**Payment Methods –**

1. **Paper/mail** – Send completed reservation form and your check payable to the **Association of Mapping Seniors** to: **Merle Biggin 4808 Walbridge Street, Rockville, MD 20853**
2. **Electronically** –
  - a. When using **PayPal** add **\$1.00 for each person to cover associated fees.**
  - b. Access PayPal from the AMS website front page at <http://www.mappers.org/> and click on the “Donate” button. At the PayPal page, complete the information as requested.
  - c. On page 2, click on the “Add special instructions to the seller” and enter – Spring Luncheon and the names and menu option for each person included with the payment. Example: AMS Spring Luncheon John Smith – Salmon; Mary Smith – Beef Tips.
  - d. Forward an e-mail to Merle at [merlebiggin@uwalumni.com](mailto:merlebiggin@uwalumni.com) that includes the names, contact phone number, and appropriate menu selection for each person. State you are using PayPal to complete this transaction.

**Invite Your DMA, NIMA, NGA Colleagues to These Events!!**

**FROM: ASSOCIATION OF MAPPING SENIORS – April 2022**

**Merle Biggin  
4808 Walbridge St  
Rockville MD 20853**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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